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OPINION METER
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A Boston official says video footage shows the bomb suspect.

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A Lithuanian woman shares her home with three puma cubs.

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CNMI-only resident status during 5-year 'wait period'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Governor, other stakeholders weigh in on immigration reform bill

A comprehensive immigration reform bill that the U.S. Senate's "Gang of Eight" crafted allows six groups of long-term foreigners in the Commonwealth to "apply" for a CNMI-only permanent resident status within months of the bill's enactment into law. These include those who have been legally working in the CNMI since at least 2003.

The CNMI-only permanent resident status comes with the right of entry and exit from the CNMI.

This in itself is welcome news for many nonresidents who need to apply for required travel documents every time they go off-island.

After a five-year waiting period, these individuals with CNMI-only permanent resident status could start "applying" for a U.S. permanent resident status or "green card." This is a pathway to U.S. citizenship.

While the U.S. Senate's sweeping 844-page proposal to overhaul the nation's immigration system still has a long way to go before it reaches President Barack Obama's desk, if at all, it gave renewed hope to thousands of legal, long-term foreign workers that have helped build almost every aspect of the CNMI economy

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Inos to accept board decision on Babauta

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is expected to soon lose its top official following Gov. Eloy S. Inos' admission yesterday that he will accept the decision of the corporation board not to renew the employment contract of CEO Juan N. Babauta.

Babauta

Inos, during yesterday's proclamation signing at the hospital, pointed out that it is stipulated in the law that created the healthcare corporation that the board has full authority to decide on the CEO's contract.

The governor explained that he cannot change the board's decision, even if it serves only as an "advisory" board.

"The board resolved that the CEO's contract will not be renewed upon expiration on July 9th. And as governor, I cannot change that decision," Inos told *Saipan Tribune.*

Babauta was appointed CEO in October 2011 upon the establishment of the corporation board of trustees. His $96,000 employment contract, however, was executed only on July

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MMAC WEEK

2013 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee overall chair Manny Borja, second from right, reads his welcoming remarks at yesterday's proclamation signing declaring April 21 to 27 as MMAC Week at the main hall of DFS Galleria in Garapan. Others in photo are, from left, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, Ben Babauta of DFS Galleria, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

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Inos to order pay cuts at autonomous agencies

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday he will be issuing a directive that would require autonomous agencies to review their compensation structure to ensure their personnel do not receive hefty salaries than they ought to. Such a review could result in pay cuts for officials and employees effective Oct. 1.

These autonomous agencies are governed by boards of directors so the responsibility of reviewing their compensation structure primarily falls on them.

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Mother cites mental illness for stabbing her own baby

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Probable cause has been found to warrant the filing of charges against a woman who is accused of stabbing her 2-month-old baby several times.

At a preliminary hearing on Wednesday afternoon, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ordered 28-year-old Loretta R. Feria to answer the charges of attempted murder in the first degree, aggravated assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and child abuse.

Feria, through assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti, entered a not guilty plea due to mental defect and mental illness.

Assistant attorney general Chemere McField appeared for the government at the hearing.

Camacho set a status conference for May 15, 2013, at 9am. Feria was remanded to the Department of Corrections.

According to police and court records, police received a call on Feb. 9 at 8:48pm about a stabbing incident at a residence in Chalan Kanoa.

When medics arrived at the house, they immediately called for patrol officers as they discovered that the victim was an infant.

Further investigation revealed that the mother, Feria, admitted to officers at the scene that she stabbed her baby. Feria was then arrested.

The baby, a girl, was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center where she was treated for a stab wound on the abdomen, a laceration on the neck, and abrasions on the left wrist. After surgery, she was listed in stable condition.

Copper wire thieves disrupt store's transfer to new site

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A hardware store's transfer to a new location in San Antonio was disrupted after thieves stole the copper wires intended for the company's power supply.

The owners of the Chalan Kanoa-based Hong Ye Construction Hardware expressed disappointment and anger yesterday upon learning that the copper wire lines that they had just installed at their new warehouse in San Antonio were stolen before the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. could even hook them up.

One of the owners told *Saipan Tribune* that three brand new rolls of copper wire worth $500 were stolen.

"I buy again and install wires today. Police should do something," the owner said, adding that one of their employees subsequently found the stolen wires being sold at a recycling center in As Perdido.

The owner said their hardware store is very small so they want to transfer to a bigger building in San Antonio.

Jack Guerrero, an equipment operator of Hong Ye, said their technician discovered the theft when he reported for work at the warehouse in San Antonio on Monday at 7:30am.

That same day, Guerrero said, their technician checked a recycling center in As Perdido and found the wires there. The shop allegedly refused to show the surveillance camera tapes to the technician.

Guerrero said the matter was then reported to the police.

As of press time yesterday, no one has been arrested yet.

He said the lines had already been installed and inspected by a CUC crew the week before and they were only waiting for

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Mandatory DNA collection for felony arrestees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Health Committee chair Rep. Antonio Agulto (IR-Saipan) introduced yesterday a bill mandating the collection of DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, for felony arrestees to help law enforcement agencies identify criminals earlier and create more efficient investigation practices.

House Bill 18-52 was among the 29 bills and resolutions introduced at the House session yesterday afternoon. Most were referred to committees for review and recommendation.

Agulto said that Hawaii, which has implemented DNA collection for arrestees in 2011, has significantly improved its capacity to address and prosecute perpetrators of crimes.

DNA is the hereditary material in humans and almost all other organisms. Nearly every cell in a person's body has the same DNA.

While all states require DNA collection for felony convictions, most states have begun considering bills to require collection for felony arrests, Agulto said.

"The enactment of legislation calling for the collection of DNA upon arrest for violent felonies is critical to the ability of our law enforcement agencies to solve cold cases, save lives, and prevent subsequent violent crimes by providing early identification of serial offenders, absolve the innocent and minimize wrongful incarceration, minimize racial bias, and reduce law enforcement costs," he said in his bill.

Other bills introduced yesterday included revenue-generation measures such as floor leader Ralph Demapan's (Cov-Saipan) bill legalizing casino gaming on Saipan, tighter enforcement of existing laws, and those that help fund the NMI Retirement Fund including one that authorizes the Commonwealth Development Authority to issue pension obligation bonds of up to $300 million to pay the government's obligations to the pension agency.

Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) also introduced a bill allowing members of the Defined Contribution Plan to withdraw their account balance while terminating employment.

Rep. Mario Taitano (IR-Saipan) introduced a bill allowing all retired government employees to be re-employed by the CNMI government and eliminate double dipping.

Resolutions adopted

The House adopted three congratulatory resolutions, in addition to adopting one from the Senate.

House members adopted Rep. Tony Sablan's (IR-Saipan) House Resolution 18-12 commending Koblerville Elementary School's Umang Glee Club for their performance at the 2013 Tumon Bay Music Festival, as well as his and others' HR 18-13 applauding Alexander P. Sablan's accomplishments as a musician.

The House also adopted Rep. Teresita Santos' (R-Rota) HR 18-14, congratulating the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior/Senior High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Chamorro Buck Drill Team for bagging the first prize in the CNMI Multiple School Unit Interisland Drill Team Competition on Feb. 16.

House members also adopted a joint resolution from the Senate thanking 17 colleges and universities for providing a quality education to CNMI people. Some lawmakers, however, said there were universities left out in Senate Resolution 18-3.

Ayuyu's trials delayed anew; Guam lawyer Lujan retained

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The two jury trials next month of Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) was moved to another date again soon after the senator retained Guam veteran lawyer David J. Lujan to be his defense counsel in two of three criminal cases.

At a hearing yesterday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Lujan's request to move the jury trials to another date due to his busy court calendar in Guam.

Lujan also informed the court that he will file pre-trial motions, including a request to severe the *fanihi* (fruit bat) case and the obstruction of justice case.

Manglona set the new trial date in the cellphone use case for July 23, 2013, instead of May 13, 2013. The judge set the new joint trial in the fruit bat case and the obstruction of justice case for July 29, 2013, instead of May 15, 2013.

A pre-trial conference will be held on July 2.

The representation issue for Ayuyu in the three cases became complex after Lujan informed the court that he only accepted two cases—the obstruction of justice and cellphone cases—because of his busy court schedule.

Court-appointed counsel Bruce Berline will be representing Ayuyu in the fruit bat case.

Lujan said the *fanihi* case is time-consuming for him and that he has other cases in Guam for trials in May and June.

Lujan disclosed that he only learned that the fruit bat case and the obstruction of justice case are set for a joint trial after he received a copy of the court's order from Berline.

The Guam lawyer said he has no problem with joining the obstruction of justice case and the cellphone matter, "which is nothing but a misdemeanor case."

With respect to the fruit bat and the obstruction of justice cases, Lujan believes that the nature of the offense is different and merits separate trials.

Assistant attorney general Garth Backe opposed separating the fruit bat and obstruction cases. He also questioned if Ayuyu is indigent since he retained Lujan as his counsel and court-appointed Berline as his other counsel.

Lujan cited problems with two lead counsels in a joint trial of two cases. Berline agreed.

Lujan said he has been retained by some of Ayuyu's relatives.

Manglona said she is not inclined to separate the fruit bat and obstruction cases but will allow Lujan to file a written motion.

In the first two cases, the 48-year-old Ayuyu is charged over a conspiracy to smuggle eight dead Mariana fruit bats from Rota to Saipan in October 2010, concealing the bats inside a cardboard box beneath 40 lbs of lemons. A joint jury trial in the two cases was supposed to begin last April 1.

In the third case, Ayuyu is charged with possession of a cell phone while in detention.

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STATUS

From Page 1

for years and decades.

The U.S. Senate has yet to act on the bill, titled "Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act."

Meanwhile, the U.S. House has yet to release its own version.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said he asked the Gang of Eight in both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives "to include the CNMI language in their base bill."

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, advocates, and workers also welcomed yesterday the inclusion of the CNMI's long-term alien residents in the U.S. Senate's bill that would revamp almost every major program affecting immigration and extend legal status to most of the 11 million illegal immigrants in the United States.

Inos said he supports the general idea of allowing long-term foreign workers to apply for improved immigration status. But he said at this stage, the bill's CNMI-specific language could still be changed.

"The devil is in the details. I need to take a look at that before we take any position but as to the idea…we are generally in support of that," Inos said in an interview yesterday.

If and when the current transitional Commonwealth-only worker program is extended by five years after its Dec. 31, 2014, expiration, this would allow the CNMI to have continued access to over 12,000 skilled and professional foreign workers eligible to apply for both a CNMI-only permanent resident status and U.S. permanent resident status.

Who are eligible?

Under the U.S. Senate bill that was released Wednesday, the Department of Homeland Security secretary is required to establish a process for such aliens to apply for CNMI-only permanent resident status "during the 90-day period beginning on the first day of the sixth month after the date of the enactment" of the measure.

There are six groups of aliens eligible for a CNMI-only permanent resident status.

First group: Those persons born in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974, and Jan. 9, 1978.

Second group: Those persons granted CNMI permanent resident status under CNMI immigration law.

Third group: The spouse or child of the first and second groups.

Fourth group: The immediate family members of U.S. citizens, regardless of age.

Fifth group: Foreign workers in the CNMI that were admitted under CNMI immigration law five years prior to May 8, 2008, and are presently resident under CW-1 status.

Sixth group: The spouse and children of individuals in the fifth group.

The first four groups were covered in Sablan's H.R. 1466 in the previous Congress.

Sablan added two more groups to his original bill that became part of the U.S. Senate legislation, making it a "broader" version of H.R. 1466.

Five years after the enactment of the U.S. Senate bill, those with CNMI-only permanent resident status "may apply to receive an immigrant visa or to adjust his or her status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence."

This refers to U.S. permanent resident status or "green card," a pathway to citizenship.

The bill is available at http://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/?a=Files.Serve&File_id=b0a97f73-03ff-40a3-9910-45286495cf42.

The language that specifically refers to the CNMI starts on Page 144.

Exclusion

The U.S. Senate bill excludes from eligibility for adjustment of status those who are illegally present in the CNMI.

Individuals granted CNMI-only permanent resident status are not eligible for public assistance for which they are not otherwise entitled.

Citizens of the Freely Associated States or those from Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia's Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae, are also excluded from eligibility to adjust status under this legislation.

The CNMI governor, echoing Sablan's earlier statements, said yesterday that the CNMI-specific provision does not provide amnesty to those considered illegal or out of status aliens on the islands.

But many of the over 11 million illegal immigrations in the U.S. mainland could earn a chance at a pathway to citizenship under the same bill.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), a former CNMI immigration director, said he supports the idea of allowing long-term foreigners in the CNMI to have a chance at green card and citizenship.

However, he hopes that those who have been legally working in the CNMI since 2003 should not be subjected to a five-year waiting period from the date of the bill's signing into law.

"Personally, I object to adding five years waiting period. That is a double standard applied to foreign workers in the CNMI. For me, whatever is required of foreign workers in California or New York to become green card holders should be the one applied in the CNMI too," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Carlito Marquez, a long-time nonresident worker in the CNMI, said he's "very hopeful and glad that finally, the comprehensive immigration reform bill is moving forward."

Marquez, an engineer from the Philippines, has been advocating for improved status for long-term alien workers in the CNMI "and the same is true with the rest of our compatriots."

"The five years of waiting upon its effective dates is quite hard for those foreign workers without employers who are now struggling to survive and just holding on for any improved status that they are expecting to happen soon. But we can't do nothing if 'that's the law' otherwise, we challenge it [again] in the court of law," he said.

Marquez said he would like to interpret the five-year waiting period "as an act of indirectly reducing the number of qualified foreign workers for improved status because only those with valid and/or legitimate employers will exist or survive within that period."

'CNMI's best chance'

Florida-based human rights activist and former CNMI teacher Wendy Doromal said yesterday that, while the CNMI-specific language as well as the whole bill in itself is not perfect, it represents the provision that has the "best chance of satisfying the many competing interests in the CNMI and of passing the U.S. Congress."

"At the very least, we should be encouraged that the Senate has included such a beneficial CNMI provision and should remain hopeful that the House will have the wisdom to follow suit," she said.

Doromal said overall, she is very pleased with what she describes as a "win-win" provision for the CNMI.

"If eventually passed, it would remove the uncertainty and instability that so many of the CNMI's legal, long-term nonresidents have suffered for years, and even decades. Families would have the threat of separation replaced with security. The provision would allow many CNMI nonresidents to finally realize the American dream that has been out of their reach for so long. Businesses could breathe a sigh of relief knowing that they could retain the skilled and loyal employees that helped them to prosper over the years. The CNMI economy could recover and grow," she said.

Alex Sablan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that the Chamber "is pleased to see CNMI immigration matters affecting our businesses and jobs, our economy and our community included in the federal immigration reform bill now offered by the bipartisan committee in the U.S. Senate."

"We thank our Washington D.C. delegate, Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, and our other elected leaders that have made sure our unique situation in the CNMI was included in this important proposed legislation," he said.

He said the Chamber still advocates for the extension of another transitional period to provide the necessary human resources "to keep our businesses running, and we thank again our elected leaders for supporting this, as well."

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is the largest business group in the CNMI with some 160 members.

Doromal also expressed appreciation "to Congressman Sablan and his staff who worked tirelessly to include the provision for CNMI nonresidents in this legislation."

"Congressman Sablan's provision is a fair and balanced compromise that should be embraced by the CNMI's individuals, business community, and elected officials. It may not totally please those of us who wanted to see a provision that would have granted outright citizenship to the CNMI's legal, long-term nonresidents. It may not totally please those who hoped for no status at all for the nonresidents. However, this provision is a well-thought-out compromise. It represents the provision that has the best chance of satisfying the many competing interests in the CNMI and of passing the U.S. Congress," she added.

Doromal urges CNMI residents, nonresidents, business owners, and elected officials to rally behind the U.S. Senate bill in one uniform voice.

"While eight bipartisan members of the Senate support it, that leaves 92 others to convince, as well as 435 House members, many of whom must be persuaded to support immigration reform. With one uniform voice, the provision will have a greater chance of passage. The alternative—no passage of the bill—would create a bleak scenario for everyone in the CNMI. No change could mean deeper economic gloom, more business loss, and the continued suffering and uncertainty for nonresidents and their families," she added.

AGENCIES

From Page 1

"We just want the boards to be accountable, responsible," Inos said in an interview at the Marianas March Against Cancer proclamation signing at DFS Galleria's main hall in Garapan.

Since Inos assumed post on Feb. 20, he has been accepting and declining courtesy resignations submitted by board members and Cabinet secretaries based his review of their agency performances.

The governor has also appointed new board members and commissioners, most of them subject to Senate confirmation.

"It's interesting that other folks would be making more. It's not an issue of who makes more [but] what's going on? If there's money to be spared, then we've got critical areas that need the funds," the governor added.

The governor, for example, earns a constitutionality mandated $70,000 a year, whereas autonomous agencies give out salaries way more than that even though they are not physicians, attorneys, or have specialized skills.

The agencies covered by the directive could include, but are not limited to, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the Commonwealth Development Authority, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., Marianas Public Land Trust, NMI Retirement Fund, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) separately said he supports the idea of reviewing the salary scale not only among top officials at autonomous agencies but all other employees as well.

"I suggest a review of the whole pay scale in these agencies. For example, why is it that an administrative assistant at CPA receives $10,000 or more than an administrative assistant at an executive agency office when they have the same qualifications? We need to implement a fair and equal payment schedule," Sablan said.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan), for his part, said it is no secret that some autonomous agencies have "bloated" salaries, not necessarily because of their qualifications.

"The only way to reduce salaries is to go through a process, a review of the salary scale," he added.

The governor, who is about to submit his $120 million proposed budget for fiscal year 2014, said there would be reduction in the number of fulltime employees, or FTEs, but clarified what he calls an "anomaly."

"The key is to reduce costs. So why does it matter that we have one FTE that costs $100,000 versus two FTEs that costs $50,000 each? So it's not the number of people but it's what it costs to maintain those people. That should be the key when you talk about reduction in size of government," said Inos, a former Finance secretary.

The governor plans to submit his fiscal year 2014 budget to the Legislature if not today then next week, ahead of his May 1 deadline.

"We'd like to submit it soon enough so that that Legislature can start deliberating on the package," he added.

The governor and some of his Cabinet members briefed lawmakers on Wednesday about the proposed spending package, the highlights of which include a 20-percent across-the-board cut on agencies' "all others" or nonpersonnel account, removal of all deputy secretary posts, the merger of the Department of Labor and Workforce Investment Agency, some $20 million set aside for the NMI Retirement Fund, $33.5 million for the Public School System, and $1.9 million for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Yesterday, the governor said CHC showed the administration that they expect to generate revenue of some $38 million and expect to spend the same amount.

"So basically they have a balanced budget. In addition to that, we're giving them $1.9 million," he added.

The governor earlier projected $114 million in revenue available for government operations in 2014. But the steady increase in tourist arrivals that could translate to higher revenue prompted the revision of next year's budget to $120 million.

BABAUTA

From Page 1

9, 2012, after Babauta chose to receive a salary instead of his retirement checks from the NMI Retirement Fund.

Inos' statement that he will concur with the board's recommendation to terminate Babauta was welcome news for corporation board chair Joaquin Torres, who believes that, by setting the record straight, issues about the CEO and his contract will be put to rest.

The board has scheduled a special meeting today and Babauta's contract is on the agenda. The CEO's presence at the meeting remains unsure at this time.

Saipan Tribune learned that trustees may vote to further shorten the CEO's stay by terminating his contract within seven days. This comes in the wake of Babauta's failure to attend last week's board meeting, choosing instead to join some lawmakers in a visit to the Tinian Health Center.

If the board goes ahead and terminates Babauta's contract ahead of time, Inos believes "there must be a reason" for it.

"If they want to do a premature termination of the contract, then there must be a reason…and I am not privy to that reason as yet," added Inos.

According to Torres, they have asked for documents related to the Tinian trip for inclusion in today's deliberation. Board members have criticized the Tinian trip due to what they described as Babauta's "misplaced priorities."

Torres said it is now the goal of the board to focus its attention on how the hospital is addressing its Medicare citations. CHCC is currently putting together the plan of correction to address the 13 areas of noncompliance identified by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

COPPER

From Page 2

CUC to finally hook the line up.

Guerrero said the suspect or suspects broke the piping, took out the insulation and took off with three lines of copper wire, each measuring 14 feet.

The hardware store owners are hoping that police will catch those responsible for the theft of wires and that CUC this time will quickly connect the lines so they could move to the new location.

Four regents, Hart off for weeklong conference in SF

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Four members of the Board of Regents and the Northern Marianas College president are off for a weeklong conference and a series of meetings in San Francisco beginning this week that the college says is key to its accreditation process.

BOR chair Juan T. Lizama was joined by colleagues Malua Peter, Elaine Orilla, newly confirmed trustee Michaela Sanchez, and NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., for a conference in San Francisco.

RELATED NEWS
2 NMC execs, lawmaker in apprenticeship conference.
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Three other regents—Frank Rabauliman, William Torres, and Andrew Orsini—didn't join the group for personal reasons.

Hart said the group is scheduled to meet with Dr. Barbara Beno of the Accreditation Commission of Colleges and Junior Colleges to talk about standards and policies to make sure that regents fully understand the accreditation process.

"The accreditation commission has standards and [Beno] wants to make sure the regents fully understand and have knowledge about all these standards," explained Hart.

She said the meeting will not take up issues related to her employment contract or specific issues at the college or the board.

"[The meeting with Dr. Beno] has nothing to do with that issue [contract]," said Hart, adding that ACCJC was very clear that it will not take a position on the issue because it is not allowed under commission rules.

"They will be discussing key accreditation recommendations as well as accreditation standards and eligibility requirements that were identified in the show-cause letter [in February 2013]," Hart told *Saipan Tribune*.

The meeting's outcome will help the college in finalizing its report that's due in October, she added.

The seven-member Board of Regents has yet to come up with a decision on Hart's employment contract, which expires on July 5.

Sources disclosed that members remain split on the issue and there were speculations that the regents' travel was a way to get a unanimous vote on the subject.

Hart said, however, that the board's attendance at the conference was the recommendation of its consultant, Dr. Narcisa A. Polonio of the Association of Community College Trustees, who she claimed even phoned Gov. Eloy S. Inos last Friday to express the importance of board's participation in the event.

Hart

Besides meeting with Beno, the group is also scheduled to meet with representatives of the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities, which accredits NMC's baccalaureate program.

The group, according to Hart, will also attend the annual meet of the American Association of Community College. NMC will be presenting at the convention, along with Dr. Mary Okada of the Guam Community College and Dr. Leon Richards of Kapiolani Community College regarding "Higher Education: Building Successful Partnerships in the Pacific."

Hart also plans to visit the City College of San Francisco, which is also on show-cause status, to meet with its leaders.

Travel cost

Based on documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, the group's travel cost totals $21,935 and covers the period from April 19 to 25.

Based on her travel authorization, Orilla will be paid $4,705 from April 17 to 27 composed of the following: transportation ($1,980); per diem ($1,500); other expenses ($300); and conference fee ($755).

Sanchez will be paid a total of $4,424 from April 19 through 25. Her per diem totals $1,500; transportation, $1,819; other expenses, $300; and conference fee, $805.

Lizama and Peter will each be paid a total of $4,290 composed of: transportation ($1,735); per diem ($1,500); other expenses ($300); and conference fee ($755).

NMC paid a total of $4,226 for Hart's participation: transportation ($1,671); per diem ($1,500); other expenses ($300); and registration fee ($755).

Hart said they are aware of the expenses involved for the conference and meetings.

"We are cognizant of the expenses involved in traveling for this meeting, but we feel that it is necessary as part of the college's overall efforts to maintain its accreditation," said Hart.

"We are being proactive and strategic, we need to do everything that we possibly can to ensure that this institution continues to play a central role in educating students and in meeting workforce needs," she added.

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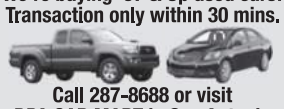
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2 NMC execs, lawmaker in apprenticeship conference

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As part of efforts to build up the Northern Marianas College's apprenticeship program, two of its officers are scheduled to fly to a San Francisco conference beginning this week, according to NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., yesterday.

These personnel include David Attao, the dean of Administration and Resource Development who also oversees the U.S. Apprenticeship Program at NMC, and Maria Aguon, the Tinian site apprenticeship coordinator. Their travel fare and per diem will be sourced from the "non-operations/non-appropriated" departmental program budget at the college. The cost of their travel was not disclosed.

According to NMC, the two employees will be joined by Larry John A. Deleon Guerrero, who was designated by the Saipan and Northern Island Legislative Delegation to assist NMC with its apprenticeship program. It was disclosed that funding for the staff was co-shared by the college.

Saipan Tribune learned that Rep. Ralph Yumul (IR-Saipan) is also on the trip list after being designated by the Saipan and Northern Island Legislative Delegation to attend the conference. The lawmaker, according to NMC, shouldered his own travel cost.

The group, according to NMC, will be meeting and receive training from Patricia Garcia of the U.S. Department of Labor – Office of Apprenticeship.

NMC has yet to start its apprenticeship program due to the lack of funds.

Hart said that the college expects to soon launch the program.

"We anticipate that the full launch of the apprenticeship program at NMC will provide a helpful boost to the local economy by focusing on jobs expected to be lost due to the departure of contract workers," Hart added.

The Apprenticeship Training Program at NMC is an earn-while-you-learn program that focuses on on-the-job training provided by employers combined with related classroom instruction provided by NMC.

According to Attao, "clients on Tinian, Rota, and Saipan are eager to start or continue the training, and the college nears the final steps to bring the apprenticeship program into full swing. This meeting and training will ensure for such."

The aim of the NMC U.S. Apprenticeship program is to build the local workforce by stimulating, encouraging, and assisting local industries in the development and expansion of apprenticeship and training.

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Xerox goes to bat for MMAC with $1.3K donation

For the first time, Xerox Saipan is sponsoring the annual Marianas March Against Cancer fundraising event of the nonprofit group Commonwealth Cancer Association

Service & Solutions executive Nola K. Hix and staffer Jeniseann Cruz-Rideb handed Tuesday a $1,287 check to CCA program manager Juan L. Babauta and Dr. Jack Hardy, MMAC senior adviser, in a brief ceremony at their office in Garapan.

The donation makes Xerox Saipan a major sponsor for the event—a level of sponsorship for companies or organizations that give monetary or in-kind contributions between $1,000 and $2,999.

Hix explained that the $287 will pay for the medallions for cancer survivors who will be honored at the 2013 MMAC, set for April 26 to 27 at the Hopwood Jr. High School Field.

The 12-hour event is the largest and signature annual cancer fundraiser of the CCA.

Hix heads the MMAC's Survivors Committee this year, replacing Nora Sablan who stepped down from the post.

The committee is responsible for overseeing the ceremony honoring the survivors, and Hix revealed that about 30 survivors have already registered for the event and will receive the medallions scheduled to arrive within the week.

Hix said she is happy to be involved in the event preparation, as some of her family members were diagnosed with and treated for cancer.

"Getting a second chance in life is a beautiful thing," she said, adding that Xerox also printed this year's MMAC posters.

Xerox will serve as a printing option for brochures, pamphlets and other instructional materials used in CCA programs, she added.

Hix urged other survivors to attend the 2013 MMAC next weekend and be recognized during the ceremony. To register, call 989-6652, email cnmisurvivors@gmail.com, or visit CCA office in Gualo Rai or call 682-0050.

As one of the originators of MMAC, Hardy said that having Xerox as a sponsor is a great gesture.

"What we've hoped for is to involve the entire community in CCA efforts because cancer is a community-wide problem," he added. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Xerox Saipan Service & Solutions executive Nola K. Hix, right, presents the $1,287 check to Marianas March Against Cancer senior adviser Jack Hardy, second from left, in a brief ceremony at their Garapan office on Tuesday. Joining them are Commonwealth Cancer Association program manager Juan L. Babauta and Xerox Saipan staffer Jeniseann Cruz-Rideb.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Burglary at Study Hall

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for information on a burglary and theft incident that occurred at the Study Hall, located on the second floor of a commercial building, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Chalan Laulau.

On Friday, April 12, 2013, about 5am, the victim, a 38-year-old male, awoke and discovered that the rear door was open. The victim realized someone had stolen his personal items, which include a black computer bag containing his 17" Dell laptop, an iPad 2, an iPhone, and U.S. passport. The point of entry was through the back door. The total value of the stolen items is estimated to be at over $3,500.

The victim's car, a 1998 White Nissan Pathfinder was also taken and recovered by police the next day, Saturday, April 13, 2013, at about 4:30pm, parked outside the Northern Marianas College gymnasium.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

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HEALTH FAIR PARTICIPANTS

Ayuda Network, Department of Public Health, Center for Independent Living, PSS HeadStart Program, College Access Challenge Grant, Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, CUC Power Division, DYS, Child Protection Unit, Family Violence Task Force, Get Fit CNMI, H.O.M.E Visiting Nurse Program, Hardt Diabetes Education Center, Let's Move Marianas, Marianas Islands Nature Alliance, Marianas Health, LLC., MARPAC, Maternal Child Health Dental Program, NMI Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, NMC Nursing Club, Northern Marianas Athletics Federation, WIC Program, Coca-Cola Beverage Co., Glimpses Publications/BRM Photo booth, CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management, St. Michaels, NMC-CREES.

Inos inks emergency directive to combat NCD crisis

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, signs the emergency directive to combat the islands' ongoing crisis on non-communicable diseases during a ceremony yesterday at Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. while Lt. Gov. Jude Hofschneider and corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta look on.

Acknowledging the grave impact of non-communicable diseases in the Commonwealth, Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed yesterday an emergency directive that seeks to combat these diseases.

In a ceremony before health officials, lawmakers, representatives of various government agencies and groups, the governor ordered the establishment of a CNMI NCD Emergency Committee within 30 days to oversee the implementation of NCD-related strategies across various sectors.

A non-communicable disease is a medical condition or disease that by definition is non-infectious and non-transmissible among people. NCDs are sometimes called chronic or lifestyle-related diseases. Among the top NCDs on islands are heart disease, cancer, stroke, chronic respiratory disease, diabetes, and others.

Based on the governor's directive, the NCD burden is expected to worsen significantly over the next generation and will adversely affect the youth in the CNMI population.

"The current generation is dying prematurely or losing functionality because of NCDs and there is no sign of improvement in the foreseeable future if status quo approaches are maintained," states the governor's directive.

Inos said there is a critical need to shape effective health policies and improve the general attitude of the CNMI community on disease prevention and health promotion.

Healthcare corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta described the governor's directive as a major undertaking for the Commonwealth, which follows similar declarations in Palau and the Marshall Islands.

Babauta said that 90 percent of patients medically referred to off-island are due to non-communicable diseases and that seven out of 10 deaths in the CNMI are due to NCDs. He also cited a 2008 nutrition survey that indicates 45 percent of 7-10 year olds are either obese or overweight.

According to Public School System associate commissioner Jackie Quitugua, their records show that 57 percent of its students are at risk of being obese or underweight.

Inos also ordered the conduct of an economic impact assessment on NCDs, which will be spearheaded by the emergency committee that is developing community-wide benchmarks to be followed and tracked over time.

The governor also instructed the development of an integrated plan of action for dealing with NCDs and a surveillance system that looks at providing timely interval data necessary to monitor and manage the crisis.

Inos said that all government sectors, non-governmental agencies, statutory bodies, and civil society will assist in efforts to combat the NCD crisis.

As proof of his administration's commitment to the cause, Inos approved yesterday the voluntary participation of government employees in the monthly "Let's Move! Walk for a Healthier Marianas!" where participating employees will receive one hour of administrative leave.

The chairmen of the Health and Welfare committees in both the House and the Senate—Sen. Joaquin Borja (R-Tinian) and Rep. Antonio Agulto (R-Saipan)—expressed their support to the initiative by pledging a legislative resolution and the passage of a health impact tax legislation that is pending at the committee level.

According to Public Health director Roxanne Diaz and medical director for Public Health Dr. Dan Lamar, yesterday's signing of the directive was just the beginning of a much larger effort to fight NCD's on island.

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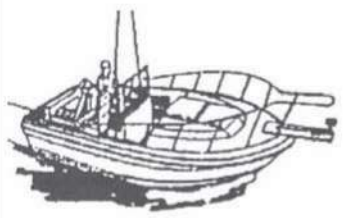

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 19, 2004

New reservoir eyed to solve water crisis

The CNMI is upbeat about achieving its goal of 24-hour water supply by November 2005, as the government disclosed plans to develop a reservoir in Chalan Kanoa. Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, the chair of the CNMI's Water Task Force, said the government is already in the process of identifying public land that would accommodate the reservoir project. The project would augment Saipan's deficient water supply, a problem that has been lagging on for years. This developed soon after the task force began landclearing work in Obyan to develop a new water well field. The project consists of drilling nine new water wells near the Saipan International Airport, which is considered as a prime water lens table location.

House continues to seek help for Yap

House vice speaker Timothy Villagomez urged the community to assist the 14th CNMI Legislature in collecting more donations and relief goods for the victims of typhoon Sudal in Yap. According to Villagomez, his office is continuously receiving donations and relief items from the community, as well as private and government sectors to collect all essential items requested by the Yap government. "We are still accepting donations and when we gathered enough, we would ship all these items to Yap to help the residents affected by the typhoon there last week," said the congressman. He added that essential items include medicines, food, infant formula, milk, water and clothes.

Apr. 19, 2005

Phil. consulate assistant wants labor case junked

A consular assistant at the Philippine consulate general on Saipan has sought the dismissal of a federal labor case filed against him by his former houseworker, invoking his consular immunity pursuant to the Vienna Convention. Ricardo P. Bautista Jr. is asking the U.S. District Court to dismiss the case filed by one Glenda R. Tinay, saying that the houseworker has no valid federal claim against him since her employment is exempt from overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Bautista also asserted that the Nonresident Workers Act does not apply to him and Tinay.

'NMI excited over imperial visit'

Gov. Juan N. Babauta met yesterday with Japanese officials stationed in the Marianas to discuss the planned visit by the Imperial Couple to Saipan. This, even as the Governor's Office and the Consular Office of Japan continue to decline to give an official statement on the proposed visit. Press secretary Peter Callaghan said the governor had a 30-minute meeting with Kennosuke Iriyama, Japan consul general for Guam and the Northern Marianas, and Takeo Saito, Japan consul for Saipan, starting 9:30am yesterday. "They discussed the possibility of the visit, which is still not confirmed. The governor basically said that we would be very excited to host the Imperial Couple, if they decide to come here," said Callaghan. He maintained that the planned visit was still in the discussion stage.

Apr. 19, 2006

1.6K ask for public market retention

A total of 1,675 individuals have signed a petition asking the governor to reconsider his decision to cancel the planned construction of a public market at the Garapan fishing base. The petition, initiated by local farmers and fishermen, was recently presented to acting Gov. Timothy Villagomez. The 1,675 signatories were all U.S. citizens residing in the Commonwealth. With the petition now submitted to the Governor's Office, the proponents of the petition is urging community members to continue supporting the campaign by writing individual letters to the administration, lawmakers, and local media.

Teachers' comments sought in tenure proposal

Public school teachers in the CNMI are being reminded to take time to comment on the tenure proposal of teacher representative Ambrose Bennett. The tenure proposal and the PSS Focus Group analysis of the tenure proposal are available online at the PSS website under the BOE heading entitled 'Tenure Proposal.' The PSS website is at http://www.pss.cnmi.mp. The Board of Education Committee on Fiscal, Personnel and Administration had earlier asked Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos and the Public School System Focus Group to submit an analysis of Bennett's proposal.

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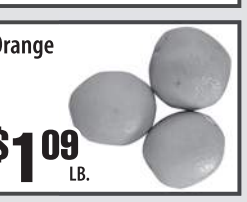

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 78

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A race with familiar rhythms and no surrender to fright

Have you paused to ponder, to hail, Lelisa Desisa, just 23 years old? Or Rita Jeptoo, who's 32? All of us should pause, and ponder, and hail: On Monday, Desisa and Jeptoo churned through Greater Boston to win, respectively, the men's and women's categories of the world's oldest annual marathon. They are an Ethiopian and a Kenyan who traveled to the United States to chip away at something _ and therein lies a great lesson. A great hope.

Desisa covered the course in 2 hours, 10 minutes and 22 seconds _ not a record, but nearly 45 minutes faster than John J. McDermott's winning time in 1897. Jeptoo finished in 2:26:25 _ more than 55 minutes faster than Bobbi Gibb, the first women's winner, in 1966.

To the world's elite runners and fans of this fundamental sport, Boston is America's race, even though no American has won either category since 1983 (Greg Meyer) or 1985 (Lisa Larsen Weidenbach). For 117 years, those runners have competed against one of life's unconquerable constants: the passage of time.

On Monday another of life's unconquerable constants, the determination of some people to harm and humiliate others, captured moments that should have belonged to Desisa, Jeptoo and the other 23,179 runners who had stepped off Monday in Hopkinton, Mass.

As a nation we need to learn from every terrorist act, whether it be airplanes knifing skyscrapers or pressure-cooker bombs spraying shrapnel. The most important thing we need to learn, yet never accept, is that we could spend an eternity trying to exterminate these killers and never succeed.

No sooner will we learn who perpetrated this bombing than the quest will begin to keep it from recurring. Maybe good ideas will emerge. One good idea: Make certain that running the Boston Marathon in 2014 is as admirable and festive as it's been since the end of the 19th century.

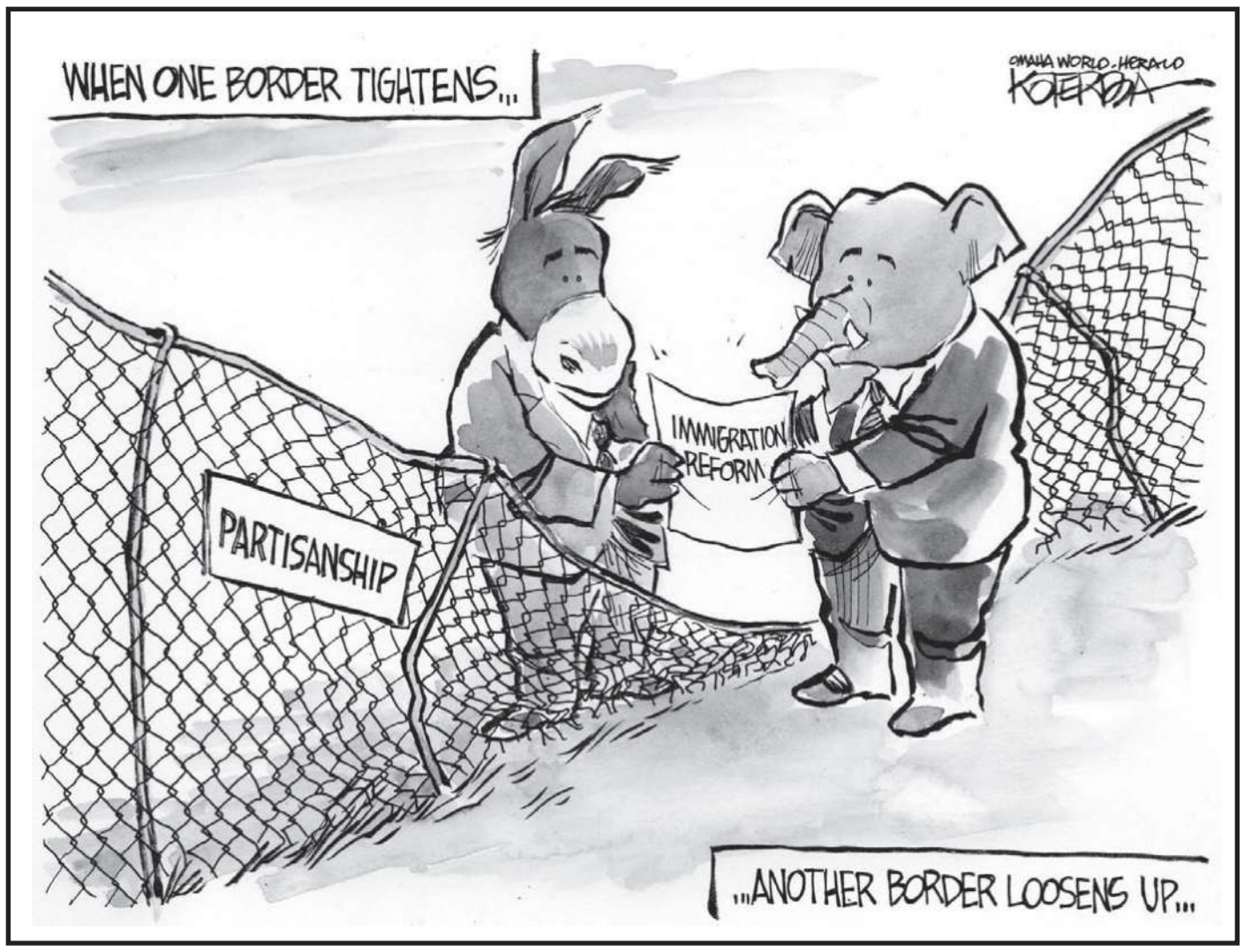
Whoever plotted Monday's assault sought to spread the scent of explosives, but also the scent of fear. Terrorists, like 2-year-olds and bully drunks, live for the power to overwhelm, to intimidate, and thus to dominate.

The antidote is a stoicism that comes unnaturally to Americans of today's generations but which grows a little stronger with every significant terrorist incident on U.S. soil. As we've written, through the various attacks of the two decades since the first attempt to topple the World Trade Center in 1993, this nation's people have learned what they can survive. Have learned that they can survive.

We hold great hope, then, for the success of a 2014 Boston Marathon, a race with familiar rhythms and no surrender to fright. May next year's Desisa and Jeptoo chip away at race times that runners of the last century couldn't fantasize.

And may all of us who revere this institution of American sport chip away at our fears of murderers we'll never be able to scour from the Earth.

(c)2013 Chicago Tribune



Lena and Mike

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Lena and Mike were a handsome couple when I bumped into them at a watering hole on Beach Road by San Jose. He came to build golf courses and she left hubby and child in China to sew garments on the isles of the Northern Marianas labeled *Made in the USA*. Neither attained their dream. They joined forces to pour drinks to lonely hearts seeking comfort and refuge, crooning the evening shadows by Saipan's lagoon. The neon lights were subdued but the rural ladies' painted faces were works of art!

What brought Lena and Mike to mind is the cold. It is already past the middle of April. On Tuesday morning, we walked to our class while the fluffy white featherweight snow languished down from the skies. It did not stay on the ground but for us tropical hot-blooded bipeds, we still sport muffler, mitt, and muff to tide us over until the sun peeks through to sprout the spring buds while awaiting Mother Earth's full complement of heat and water.

The current atmosphere in Shenyang is a bit maudlin to begin with as news that the third casualty in the Boston Marathon bombing, Lu Lingzi, is confirmed. The Boston U graduate student is a resident of Shenyang. Add the simultaneous attempts to poison a U.S. senator and Obama with ricin-laced letters only fuel the conspiracy theories that surround the Boston incident.

Lu Lingzi's misfortune is actually not at the top of China's news focus. The lingering winter is causing havoc to northern agriculture's timeline as the planting season is off schedule. Melting waters have to be drained from fields and tractors till still frozen soil.

The bureaucrat's timetable is not in sync with that of Mother Nature. Our new coal plant across the street that sends heat to our radiators stopped operation on April 1, even though Shenyang and the rest of Dong Bei remained frozen. It was on schedule.

Fortunately, as a foreign teacher, my residence is equipped with air-conditioning capable of generating both heat and cold. The students' dormitories are not so lucky. Students attend class all bundled up, albeit, fashionably insulated.

The foothills of Yunnan, on the tail ridge of the Himalayas, experienced tremors this week that extended from Iraq and Iran, way above seven points on the Richterscale, affecting Pakistan and India, rolling all the way to the foothills of southern China. Given China's propensity to construct huts to last a year rather than palaces for eternity, roofs and plastered walls came tumbling down quick and ugly. CCTV cameras were there to catch it all!

This is all to say that we are still confined indoors, rummaging through boxes of 35mm negatives where we found a spool we exposed of a coy and smiling Lena in front of a video rental shop on the second floor of a Garapan building where she worked daytime to augment the meager earning of their *karaoke* dive at night. It would be much later when Mike finally put his landscaping skills in managing the disposal of Saipan's trash that got them financially on an even keel.

The last I heard, the couple made their way to Tucson, Arizona.

This memory of friends comes as we inventory our decade-long life expenditure on the island of Saipan. Some acquaintances often ask when we will buckle down and write our memoirs, and I kiddingly reply with: "Which part of it should I leave out?" Not that we see writing a book in our horizon, for today's literate Juan and Maria are inured to the immediacy of the blog. Reflected, refracted, meditated, and contemplated thought has become a feature of past literal outputs.

While at San Vicente Elementary, I was clear that the 3.5-minute attention span of students from commercial TV and radio broadcasts in between ads is not a figment of the sociologists' imagination. We abandoned the lecture format a long time ago; we replaced the teacher-centered classroom in the '80s with the learner-focused dynamic of progressive pedagogy.

Ironically, getting classrooms structured to be participatory so that students are facilitated to discover what they already know, enable them to describe their experiences, encourage them to express their feelings, motivate them to articulate their thoughts, and demonstrate how they might formulate their plans, is alien to standardized test formats of many schools, including our PSS where the one-pedagogy-fits-all textbook-dependent syndrome is closely followed.

A Chinese professor from Hangzhou Normal University writes of the pedagogy of listening that approximates our four levels of human consciousness in the preceding participatory method we described. He uses the iteration of listening, description, interpretation, and action—close enough for our comfort.

In the early '80s, we ran into *Destroying the Teacher* as a pedagogical principle. It aimed to reduce classroom coercion, activate learner involvement, focus on experience more than interpretation, avoid dumb-downing, and accent the value of silence. Practices of the same still guide our pedagogy.

So what has this got to do with Lena and Mike? Their memory triggered our recollection of our pedagogy among creatures of the night at Oleai that followed the same pattern we used during the day at SVES, and happily, it still holds true even today in the university classrooms in cold and momentarily sad Shenyang.

Spring cleaning

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Ah, spring cleaning! It's time to tidy up some items that deserve attention, so I'm heaping them into one list today so I can get them off of my desk. Some items will receive more attention in the future. Some won't.

1). The booming Chinese economy has created a burgeoning Chinese middle class hungry for travel. This isn't merely news in Asian tourism circles. It's news everywhere.

CNN recently noted that Chinese tourists are "surpassing American and German travelers in 2012 as the world's top international spenders, with a record $102 billion shelled out on the road."

2). As always, the CNMI has a front row seat to Asian economic truths. My pals and I established charter helicopter service to the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino in 1998.

This was one of my first forays into Chinese-related tourism, but not my last, and, yes, I think this realm will continue to grow globally, as do my pals.

3). I'll note that I am always on the lookout for Chinese "readers." A reader is a book that, well, you read to learn a language. I'm looking to find a reader that is modern, snappy, and engaging, since my brain long ago hit the fatigue point in my Mandarin studies.

One series of readers just came to my attention. It's called Chinese Breeze (Hanyu Feng), and is published by the Peking University Press.

The series, launched in 2007, is supposed to comprise eight levels, ranging from 300-word vocabularies (Level 1) to 4,500-word vocabularies (Level 8). I like that concept, since it holds the promise of allowing students to jump in at an appropriate level, and, hopefully, climb the ladder from there.

Each book comes with an audio CD of the text, and the text is read at two speeds, one slower, one faster. That's another concept I like.

So the more I look into this, the more I'm getting my hopes up.

Unfortunately, I've been advised by a book seller that only the first three levels are represented on shelves right now. I have no word on when, or even if, the rest of the series is going to make the leap from promise to product.

Anyway, I ordered a couple of books just to get a sense of the product. Stay tuned.

4). If you follow financial news, you'll know that gold markets did a major downward dipsy-doodle lately. I got a text from a pal who asked if I'd scribe a column on that action, since I follow this stuff closely.

I don't want to devote an entire column to it. But I don't want to ignore it, either. Do I know what caused the price plunge? No, I don't.

I'm going to split the difference by speaking to those who are already interested, and familiar, with this topic, so we can take a breather from the market action and get back to basics.

Everyone else can skip to the next item, No. 5, on the list; no harm done. Otherwise, here we go:

Gold prices are largely driven by the demand side, at least in typical situations. Although gold has industrial uses, most of the price reflects what I'll call a luxury status, and luxuries are strongly driven by the income component of demand. I'll consider speculative demand part of the luxury gig, since something needs to provide the ultimate demand at the street level, otherwise there's no underlying value to speculate on.

For the sake of pondering an economic scenario, consider that a reduction in incomes will induce a reduction of the income component of demand, which, all else being equal, will pull down the price of gold.

Of course, the income component is only one of several factors that drive the demand for gold, some others being inflationary expectations (including those driven by any expected currency devaluations), which are positively correlated with demand, and interest rates (which are an opportunity cost of holding gold, since it gathers dust, not interest), which are negatively correlated with demand.

That's enough for now. More later? Maybe.

5). When I was learning to fly airplanes my navigation instructor said, "It's all about three questions: Where am I, where do I want to be, and how do I get there?"

True, that. It applies to just about everything I can think of.

Whenever I get stuck in a rut, I walk myself through the questions, especially the second one.

After all, it's easy to wind up aimless, hoping to drift into something better, dreaming that one's precocious wit will be discovered by a grateful world, or convinced that things will just fall into place somehow.

But without a specific destination in mind, we can't steer the right course.

Airplanes can refuel to buy more time. But we can't. Every day we burn through is gone forever.

In the world of acts, the urge to help overwhelms

By JOHN KASS
Chicago Tribune

John Kass is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. *Readers may send him email at jskass@tribune.com.*

There is the world of acts and there is the world of words. And America saw both the other day when the bombs went off at the finish of the Boston Marathon.

As the dead and wounded were rushed to Boston hospitals, Americans reached for smartphones and computers. We've become a nation on keyboards, desperate to virtually search and connect even in chaos. Perhaps the act of typing makes us feel as if we can control the uncontrollable.

But that's the world of words. The world of acts was much different.

You saw it on video, police, firefighters and paramedics running toward the blast. But also others, civilians, running toward the explosion, desperate to help.

The normal human reaction is to avoid danger. But there they were, first responders and civilians, running into it.

And every firefighter, paramedic and cop I talked to in Chicago on Tuesday—the same men and women who'd be there to help if something bad happened here—said the same thing.

There are those who talk, and those who do.

And those who do run toward trouble.

"Years ago, my very first week out of the academy, we get a call, shots fired on 71st Street," said a veteran beat cop as his partner stood alongside, nodding. "We're hauling ass, all adrenaline, and we pull up and the crowd's running toward us.

"You can hear the pop-pop-pop and people are running away, screaming, hands up, mouths open, and we're running toward them, running through them to get to the shooter. You know what I'm thinking?"

What?

"I'm thinking: Am I (bleeping) crazy or what?

"But that's what we do."

Assistant Deputy Superintendent Howard Lodding runs the Chicago police academy—the Timothy J. O'Connor Education and Training Center, where future officers are trained.

"It may sound corny, but we're there because we're going to help people," Lodding said.

Lodding said that training helps focus the instinct to help. And that training also involves thinking carefully, and clearly, as they move toward trouble.

A friend of mine is a veteran paramedic. Unfortunately, he's also a crazed Cubs fan, but I called him because I wanted to know:

What makes people run to danger, rather than avoid it?

"The media wants to make us out like heroes, but there were lots of civilians running toward the bombs, too," he said. "We have more training. They don't. I guess we're all crazy."

Adrenaline kicks in, and it can often consume the untrained responder or civilian. It consumes trained veterans, too, only they recognize the signs.

"You get that one dazed moment and the massive rush of adrenaline to go forward. You are supposed to be scanning, slow, scanning, looking, but you get tunnel vision. We know this," said the paramedic.

"Physiologically, your eyes' focus narrows, your heart rate speeds up, you lose saliva in the mouth, you get that hyper feeling. That's why they tell you not to rush in. And still, it happens, you rush in."

Like so many other responders across America, he watched the videos from Boston repeatedly as they were broadcast, studying them. He told me that in most cases, the urge to help overwhelms the training.

"You see the video, the first responders who went there violated everything we've been taught about terrorism," he said. "We're told not to go in immediately. To wait for a secondary explosion. Technically speaking, you're supposed to take a backward step. But who does?"

He explained it this way: You're asleep and your wife elbows you awake, shouting that there's a fire in the house across the street and there are kids inside. The prudent, reasonable thing to do is to call 911.

But something happens inside human beings.

"It's like a switch gets kicked on. You're not really thinking clearly. Your training says not to rush in when you hear that first bomb. There's always that second terrorist explosion to kill off police, firefighters and paramedics.

"Now you've got cops and paramedics down, and the commander at the scene closes it down and won't let anyone else in. That's what the terrorist wants. Because people from the first blast are going to bleed out. An artery gets nicked, you have four or five minutes before they're gone."

And even with all that, they still rush in. No snark. No speculation. No words. Just acts.

"Because that's what we do," he said. "That's what we do."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Islan Pagan

To all the present and former residents of the CNMI who oppose the militarization of Pagan, you have my support. I am currently taking a class online, and it just so happens to be U.S. History. As a student on Saipan, I didn't retain much of the information I was supposed to be learning. Now, as an adult, I am disgusted with how our nation has treated people to get what they want. History tells us the Native Americans were slaughtered and displaced by the millions! They were all over the Americas well before Britain decided to explore the New World, and they went from holding much of what is now the United States into reservations! They were driven off their land, turned against each other, and killed, if they didn't conform to the new American lifestyle. What a shame. Are we the next group of people to be displaced from our own homes at the hands of the U.S government? Do we even know the long-term effects of the live fire training taking place on FDM? Nothing seems to be out of place right now, but how long until residents start dropping in record numbers due to contamination of the air, seafood, and beaches? Take a look at the Bikini Atoll where nuclear testing was done and residents were displaced multiple times because of byproducts that were dangerously high. The U.S compensates them like "sorry-we-messed-up-your-home-here's-some-money."

I am grateful for the opportunities that have opened up to us as a result of being American citizens, but at some point the quid-pro-quo game has to stop. Throughout the world, U.S. military presence is disliked by the local nationals. In the Middle East, many of the local nationals don't want us there. The transfer of troops from Okinawa to Guam is because the locals don't want the U.S there either. So now here they are, knocking on our front door.

Do we want to be like them? The Native Americans? You have a voice, let it be heard! Our local elected officials, backed by us, have the power to stand up to the government and say that we know how this story will end and we don't want to help them write it. I read something funny in *Marianas Variety*: "The report stated that the 11,614-acre island of Pagan has many beaches that could support amphibious operations training" and "The siting study also stated that Aguijan, Anatahan, Sarigan, and Alamagan do not meet the requirements for combined-level training, mobility-corridors criterion and full spectrum weapons employment criterion." As a former member of the U.S Armed Forces, I don't believe that the military cannot take another island besides Pagan and *make* it suitable for training. Come on! We're talking about the same military that built hundreds of bases in Iraq, Afghanistan, Japan, Korea, Germany and other countries, and *made* them suitable, for years! But they can't make the other islands suitable? Don't make me laugh.

Pagan is an escape for many residents; it gives us a glimpse of what life was like in the Marianas prior to the colonization of the Spaniards, Germans, Japanese, and now Americans. Why would anyone want to give that up? Many of our children don't know how to sustain themselves with only natural resources because they have been too heavily influenced by Western standards. I am against the militarization of Pagan and further displacing the residents who were already once displaced during the volcanic eruption in the '80s. They have FDM and Tinian, what more do they want?

Christine Kaipat Dennis
Wiesbaden, Germany

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

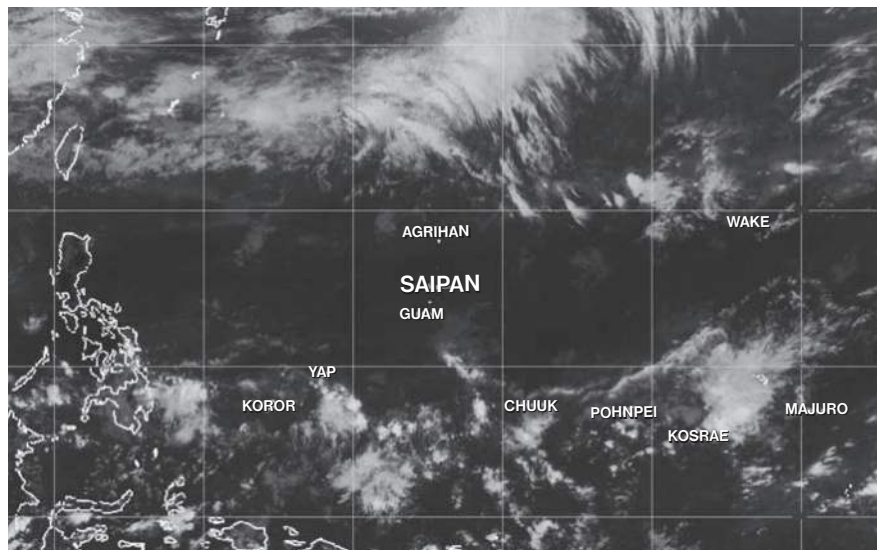
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼80
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲61	▼44
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲76	▼72
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼71
London	Sunny	▲52	▼35
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲83	▼58
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲93	▼83
Melbourne	Sunny	▲64	▼46
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼76
New York	Windy	▲69	▼51
Osaka	Cloudy	▲59	▼47
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲54	▼39
Pusan	Showers	▲55	▼45
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲62	▼51
Salem	Rain	▲56	▼47
San Francisco	Sunny	▲70	▼53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲54	▼37
Tokyo	Showers	▲57	▼51
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲76	▼53

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging surface winds south of a frontal boundary are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of a line from 23N130E to 23N140E to 24N147E including Iwo To island. A shear line reaches west-southwestward from south of Midway Island through 22N180 to 20N162E then continues westward as a surface trough to end northeast of Agrihan at 20N149E. Clouds and scattered showers are found along and up to 250 miles north of the shear line. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present along and up to 150 miles north of the trough. Converging southeast winds are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Yap within 135 miles of a line from 8N139E to 1N144E. A surface trough runs northeastward from near Kosrae at 6N162E to 14N165E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen between Kosrae and Kwajalein within 145 miles of a line from 13N163E to 6N167E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast and east of Majuro east of a line from 1N171E to 10N176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:53 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
9:42 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
2:14 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:32 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Monday	5:59 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:40 PM	12:32 AM
Saturday	1:30 PM	1:32 AM
Sunday	2:21 PM	2:13 AM
Monday	3:13 PM	2:54 AM
Tuesday	4:06 PM	3:36 AM

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 4, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:45am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:05am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

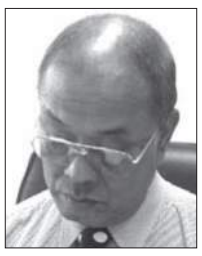
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Accelerated military plans for NMI

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



A joint military group has completed an Environmental Impact Study on plans for buildups on Tinian, Saipan, and Pagan. It's called "scoping" where an ocular review of EIS study is opened for all and views solicited from the general public.

It may be recalled that the Covenant Agreement provided for land leases to the military on Tinian, Tanapag Harbor, and Farallon De Mendenilla. It further provides the means for additional land acquisition by the military beyond specifics in the agreement.

The procedure—given that new military plans entail use of Pagan—requires U.S. congressional approval for both land lease and fees. I don't see this plan anywhere in schemes involving the relocation of Marines from Okinawa to Guam. Nor is it included in Obama's recent proposed funds for Guam beyond the buildup plan. Would such proposal sail through Congress amidst sequestration of DOD budget of more than $500 billion?

Other greater issues include: Does the plan include emplacement of basic infrastructure on Pagan, i.e., airport and seaport facilities, programs of assimilation into the local community like power generation, airport and seaport facilities, reclamation funds to rebuild what the military will destroy when it decides to terminate use of Pagan, among others?

Obviously, the plan would include an appraisal of land value up north. It means both sides must agree on a valuation method. Will it be comparables, income or cost analysis, cost of development, or other valuation methods? Aren't there changes in valuation methods and must not their use be considered in the negotiations?

"The greatest change in assessment practice over the past three decades has involved the use of computers and mathematical formulas to establish a relationship between property characteristics and land prices, thereby permitting an estimate of the market value of other properties not subject to a recent sale," according to the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

"This approach is known as computer-assisted mass appraisal. Site characteristics such as size and location are important elements of these mathematical models, raising the possibility of estimating the effect of location on parcel value."

The anticipated economic benefits from the Tinian lease never came to fruition, much to the dismay of residents and elected officials. The folks anticipated military contribution to the overall growth of the local economy. Hopeful aspiration evaporated after 35 years of inactivity on the part of the Pentagon.

Too, would the lease of Pagan terminate any further resettlement plans of indigenous islanders? Would those who claim Pagan as home ever have the opportunity to return up north when military activities take permanent hold? How long is the planned lease of Pagan? Would the lease include reclamation funds to restore the islands when the military folds operation?

If anything, the planned buildup requires thorough public education so there's established clear understanding what's coming down the pike. It's part of our national defense but then if our country has unmatched nuclear firepower in the Asia-Pacific Region, why use Pagan for conventional warfare method? This issue escapes me completely. How about similar Middle Eastern geography and climate like California, New Mexico, Arizona, Las Vegas, Texas, Nebraska, Arkansas, or somewhere near Appalachia?

Delinking health clinics from CHC

Whoever thinks it's fiscally responsible to promote such grand illusion must first tinker with the cumulative cost of medical referral to the tune of $19 million in the last fiscal year. How much of the total could the two islands generate to cover its share, discounting the $1.5 million on regular health clinic operations?

The audacious assertion only confirms politicians preaching to the choir of what's good for us for all the wrong reasons! No sir! Don't even chance toying with the health and livelihood of our people.

Too, health and pension are two of the most bankrupting item on any government's budget. You can boast about alleged fiscal independence provided you can back it up financially. Please don't forget that verisimilitude is not to be confused with truth in narrative, and indeed truth is dispensable while verisimilitude is not. Let the experts under CHC handle a highly technical issue.

When politicians grandstand that it's best to delink health clinics on Tinian and Rota from CHC so operations is undertaken independently, is this illusion supported by fiscal wherewithal or is it the usual delusional cheap shot from the hip?

It's a reckless and ludicrous idea that merits submission as fodder for comedy for Jay Leno's monologue. You could proceed with vacuous posturing but take a step back so you could critically review realistic fiscal capability or is it a case of the need for new mouthwash?

Have delusional politicians braving demonic adolescency actually read the impending implications of Obamanightmare? Did you know that its adverse effects would ruin our lives, health, and family budget to the hilt? Is this why you're floating delinking your health clinics out of spite? Why subject your people to further hardship? Is our vacuous agenda the right thing to do?

Too, isn't it your fiduciary responsibility to help them land on some level playing field wrapped with countless socio-economic opportunities under the term "prosperity"? Have you done your homework in this regard? If not, then maybe you have principle-based reasons why you've acted no better than a riled-up adolescent in search of unearned fame? As hard as life is today, save your flameless fireworks for another day at the beach.

Personal insolence won't help the life and wellbeing of our people. But mindfulness and a sense of humility will secure the healthcare they need as more of our indigenous population deal with chronic issues relating to Type II diabetes, heart problems, and assorted cancer. Use your vision (not irrelevant black and white television) to help your people. It's the right thing to do!

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For more information, contact a CACG Outreach Counselor at 234-5498 ext: 1346 or email cacg@nmcnet.edu.

Learn More! Summer Academy Free Info Session:
April 10, 2013, 5-8pm @ Student Center, Building J
April 20, 2013, 9-12pm

**FAFSA Application & Summer Academy Scholarship Applications due April 30, 2013
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Man allegedly harasses poker customers, punches police's car

A man allegedly harassed poker players then punched a police car in Fina Sisu last week.

Phillip San Nicolas, 59, was arrested and taken to Superior Court on Monday for criminal mischief and disturbing the peace. His bail was set at $500 cash.

Police detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that a police officer responded to Fina Sisu Poker Thursday night last week after receiving a call about a disturbance.

A police officer learned that San Nicolas came into the establishment, asked money from customers, and cussed at them.

When the cashier called the police, San Nicolas stepped outside the establishment.

The officer spotted San Nicolas across the road from the poker arcade and asked what was going on. The defendant allegedly punched the rear passenger door of the patrol unit, causing a dent. The officer then arrested the suspect. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MMAC Team Bodig holds coin drive today

Team Bodig of the 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer will be holding a coin drive fundraising event from 3pm to 6pm on Friday, April 19, at the Microl Toyota intersection in San Jose.

"We invite the entire community to drive by the Microl Toyota intersection today to help support Team Bodig's efforts in the fight against cancer," said 2013 MMAC overall committee chair Manny Borja.

"We applaud Team Bodig for their tireless support in the battle against this dreadful affliction," said Borja.

For more information on Team Bodig's fundraising activities, email Bridgette Camacho at bridgettecamacho@gmail.com.

The MMAC, the largest cancer fundraising activity in the CNMI, will be held on April 26 and 27 from 6pm to 6am at Hopwood Junior High School in Chalan Piao. ***(MMAC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Sabalu Market moves to Garapan Fishing Base

The Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market will be relocating to the Garapan Fishing Base on Saturday, April 20, 2013, as the Flame Tree Arts Festival will be occupying the usual location in Susupe. The Farmer's Market will return to normal on April 27, 2013. ***(PR)***

OPA to visit Tinian, Rota

Staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Tinian on Wednesday, April 24, 2013, and Rota on Thursday and Friday, April 25-26, 2013, to notarize and accept last-minute filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials. Filers on Tinian may visit the Tinian Mayor's Office from 8am to 4:30pm on Wednesday, April 24. Filers on Rota may visit the Rota Mayor's Office from 1pm to 4:30pm on Thursday, April 25, and from 8am to 4:30pm on Friday, April 26. All filers are reminded to bring with them some form of photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services. ***(OPA)***

MHS Class of '83 sets meeting

The MHS Class of 1983 would like to invite everyone to join its general meeting on Friday, April 26, 2013, at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe at 7pm. For more information, call Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. ***(PR)***

ARC health and safety trainings

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health and Safety training on the following dates:

- April 24 at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED
- April 25 at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED
- April 30 at 6pm: Blended Learning (Pediatric CPR/AED)

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Blended Learning courses involve online courses with in-person skills exam and require at least 48-hour preregistration. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459 or visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. ***(ARC)***

Kagman High Class of '04 reunion meeting

The Kagman High School Class of 2004 will have a class reunion meeting on May 7, Tuesday, at the 13 Fishermen's Pavilion, across JP Center Bldg., Garapan, at 6:30pm. All classmates are urged to be present and should also help pass the information to other classmates. For more information or inquiry, email ayuyu-2004reunion@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

CCA board meeting on April 23

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2013, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(CCA)***

Labor agricultural and livestock survey

The CNMI Department of Labor will be conducting an agricultural and livestock survey pursuant to a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor. Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas is requesting the cooperation and assistance of all farmers to please assist the department's staff in fulfilling this project. For additional information, call Bobbie T. Sablan, Administrative Services manager, at 664-3196. ***(PR)***

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CLARISSA V. DAVID

2013 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee officials and members, government officials, and the public have their picture taken at yesterday's proclamation signing at the DFS Galleria in Garapan.

April 21 to 27 is Marianas March Against Cancer Week

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cancer remains one of the two leading causes of death in the CNMI but people can lower their risk of developing most types of cancer by making lifestyle changes such as becoming more physically active, eating a better diet, and quitting smoking, according to Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider.

Both also encouraged community members to honor individuals who have passed on due to cancer and to unite with those who continue to fight the battle against this deadly disease.

The two top officials in the Commonwealth jointly proclaimed April 21 to 27 as Marianas March Against Cancer Week. 2013 MMAC Committee members and supporters witnessed yesterday's proclamation signing at the main hall of DFS Galleria in Garapan.

The weeklong commemoration will culminate with the Marinas March Against Cancer on April 26 to 27, from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Jr. High School Field in Chalan Piao.

"We'll see you there," said the governor.

Now on its 11th year, the Marinas March Against Cancer is the largest annual fundraiser of the non-profit group Commonwealth Cancer Association. It began in 2003 and is modeled after the Relay for Life with the purpose of raising funds for cancer support, education, awareness, and hope, said 2013 MMAC overall chair Manny Borja.

"Unlike the Relay for Life, however, this event specifically aims to raise funds [that] remain in the CNMI," said Borja.

Among CCA's programs are offering up to $500 financial assistance per patient, loaning medical equipment at no cost, and series of education and awareness events for the public.

"The many crucial CCA programs and activities are possible only because the community chooses to come together in support of these programs—by supporting the [MMAC]," said Borja.

Fourteen teams are scheduled to take part in the event: Joeten Dolphins, DHS, TakeCare/FHP & GCA, IT&E & Saipan Southern High School, Mount Carmel School, Tan Holdings & Kagman High School, Talaabwogh Star, Korason, PIC, Bodig, Rog, Aschoscho, Marriage Encounter, and #FREEDAVE.

The 12-hour event will honor all who have been afflicted with cancer by lighting luminaries around the track where various team members will march, run, and dance, as well as sell food and other merchandise to raise funds for the fight against the disease.

"The battle against cancer is a tremendous undertaking, and no one person or small group can hope to take it on alone," reminded Borja.

Cancer is a disease that does not discriminate by age gender or race, that's why early detection and treatment should commence at once to increase a patient's chances of living, the proclamation states.

"Cancer can be beaten," it added.

This year's MMAC sponsors are Bank of Guam, Delta Air Lines, DFS Galleria, *Marianas Variety*, Sorensen Media Group, TakeCare/FHP, Joeten Charitable Foundation, IT&E, and Saipan Apparel, title sponsors; Trader's Insurance, Brabu Pharmacy, Docomo Pacific, Saipan Mayor's Office, Hopwood Jr. High School, PHI Pharmacy, McDonald's Saipan, and Xerox, major sponsors; and Mariana Resort & Spa, supporting sponsor.

For more information, visit CCA in Gualo Rai, www.ccamarianas.org, or call 682-0050.

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Hilux Truck & Sport Compact Car Show at NMC's Charter Day

The Northern Marianas College Charter Day Planning Committee is inviting community members to sign up to participate in the NMC Charter Day Car Show.

Last year's Charter Day featured the first ever Hilux Car Show, and this year the competition is open to Hilux trucks as well as two-door/four-door sport compact cars.

Those interested in participating in the car show must submit registration forms by April 26, 2013, to Queanna Sablan no later than 4pm at the Student Center in Building J at the As Terlaje campus. There is a $20 registration fee. Those who would like to participate but not compete must pay a registration fee of $10.

Applications forms are available for download at www.nmcnet.edu, or they can be picked up at the NMC Student Center in Building J. For more information, contact Sablan at 234-5498 Ext. 1253 or email queannas@nmcnet.edu.

The NMC 2013 Charter Day Committee will be giving out the Best in Show Award for both categories at the end of the competition. Winners will receive a $200 cash prize and a trophy.

The NMC Charter Day celebration is an annual celebration that commemorates the establishment of the college in 1981. It is one of the largest celebrations in the CNMI. This year's event will take place on May 3, 2013, from 4pm to 10pm at NMC As Terlaje campus.

For more information about the NMC Charter Day competitions, entertainment or vendor information, visit www.nmcnet.edu. *(NMC)*

NMC

Toyota HiLux trucks are showcased during last year's NMC Charter Day HiLux Truck Show. This year's Charter Day Car Show will be on May 3, 2013, and will also be featuring a two- and four-door sports compact competition.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Jonmarch and Debbie Ong, who are celebrating their first wedding anniversary today, April 19, 2013!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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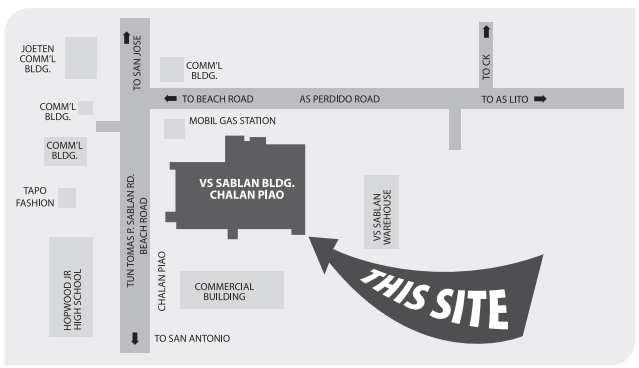

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Buildings offered for consideration must be existing or planned for development, of sound and substantial construction of the type generally recognized as contemporary with the ability to demonstrate meeting all current Federal/GSA and local codes and regulations including but not limited to fire and life safety, seismic, sustainability, OSHA, accessibility (Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS), and free of asbestos.

For additional information and **delineated area of consideration** please visit:

https://www.fbo.gov/spg/GSA/PBS/9PXE/1MP2006/listing.html
or,
www.fbo.gov and search for Solicitation # **1MP2006**

Expressions of Interest Due:	Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 5:00 pm PDT
Market Survey:	May 20-24, 2013
Occupancy:	August 2015

Send Expressions of Interest to:

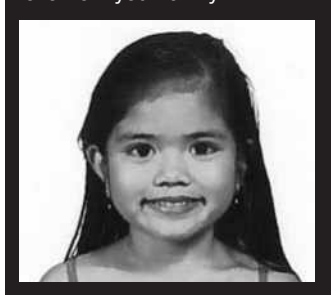
Name/Title:	Taniel Baghdikian Leasing Specialist & Project Manager Real Estate Acquisition Division U.S. General Services Administration
Address:	300 N. Los Angeles Street, Suite 4100 Los Angeles, CA 90012
Office/Fax:	Inquire by email only
Email Address:	taniel.baghdikian@gsa.gov

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy second birthday to our princess, Ariany Kailey G. Camacho! Your smile, your laugh, the funny things you do, it all brings so much joy. We cherish every second of it. May God continue to bless you with many wonderful years to come. Wishing you all the happiness life brings, love, good health, and many more blessed years. We love you. Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, MJ, Brit, and Ling.

Happy birthday greetings go out to Ryan Guerrero Duenas aka Randu Boy, who is celebrating his 7th birthday today! As you start another fantastic year of your life, we wish that all your dreams come true. Have a great birthday and a smashing year ahead. Thinking of you on your special day, Baby Joe, Tricia and the rest of the family.

Birthday shoutout to our baby girl! Happy 13th birthday to Tawnie Ann Duenas Manibusan! May the Lord continue to bless you with more wonderful years to come. With lots of love from your family.



Happy 7th birthday to Ramona E. Camacho! Wishing you all the best and happiness in life. God bless and we love you! Greetings coming out from Daddy, Mommy and the *familia*.

Belated happy birthday to our Angry Bird Baby Berry, Tyler Jonathan B. Ada, who celebrated his little big day yesterday. May the Angry Bird's birthday boy be blessed with lots of loves, hugs, and kisses that'll last a lifetime. We love you baby. From Mommy and the rest of the Aguas and Chaketa *familias*.

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'Decades of Nurturing Lives'

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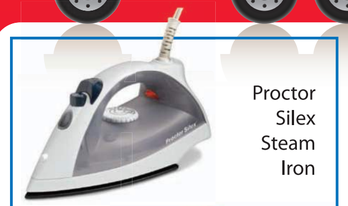

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SAFE Jamboree teaches how to prevent sexual violence

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Members of the Maranatha Christian Fellowship perform for the crowd at the 3rd Annual SAFE Jamboree held Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium grounds.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Members and supporters of the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Committee smile for the camera at the 3rd Annual SAFE Jamboree at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium on April 13.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence conveyed its message of awareness about sexual violence in the community through the 3rd Annual SAFE Jamboree last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium grounds.

Close to 700 community members took part in the signature event during the Sexual Assault Awareness Month every April.

Participants received education and awareness materials from over a dozen exhibitors that included the Coalition, Adult Basic Education, Family Violence Task Force, Division of Youth Services Child Protection Unit, HOME Program, College Access Challenge Grant, CAMI, Ayuda Network, NUTESE, Karidat, Department of Public Safety, Grace Christian Ministries, and the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service.

Guests also enjoyed live entertainment and other fun activities at the event hosted by Gordon Marciano. Performers included Maggie Naputi, Grace Christian Ministries, TGIF, SPEC Youth, Maranatha Christian Fellowship, Uncle Ben's, Cornerstone Christian Church, Pacific Flowers, Cab Dancers, Saipan Music and Dance, and the Marianas High School Chamorro and Glee Clubs.

Kiki Igitol Benjamin, chair of the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Committee, said they are thrilled to see the support of the community in their quest to educate the public about sexual violence.

Benjamin said this year's focus is focused on healthy sexuality by encouraging the community, particularly parents, to learn and talk to their children about healthy sexual development.

"Understanding healthy sexual development and teaching our children about it can help prevent child sexual abuse. By teaching our children about appropriate behaviors, how to identify what is comfortable and uncomfortable, and empowering them to take ownership of their bodies, we are giving them the tools to keep themselves safe and to speak up when they are uncomfortable," she said.

Benjamin emphasized that healthy sexuality is not just about sex but also people's values, attitudes, feelings, interactions, and behaviors.

While conversations healthy sexuality and sexual development may be difficult or cause discomfort, not having them leaves people to rely on the media as its primary source of information for children, said Benjamin. She also noted that the media over-portrays the exploitation of children and gives messages and information that are not age-appropriate or accurate.

This year's theme for Sexual Assault Awareness Month is "End Sexual Violence! Talk Early. Talk Often" which encourages the public to take part in ending sexual violence by protecting the children, encouraging them to talk early and often about healthy sexuality.

According to Benjamin, children are at a significant risk for sexual abuse, with 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys being sexually abused in his/her lifetime, thus the need for parents and other adults to open the lines of communication with the children in the community at a very young age.

"We have our hope and belief that one day, we will end sexual violence and that we as a community will be more aware and educated about the issue and that we will respect one another," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The SAFE Jamboree, which stands for Safe, Aware, Free, Empower, is a collective effort to show victims and survivors that they have a support network. It equally sends an important message to perpetrators that their acts won't be tolerated.

For more information, call the Coalition at 234-3878.

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INVITATION FOR BID

NMHC IFB 2013-003

This ad is paid with HUD Funds by NMHC

Ground Maintenance Services for NMHC's Scattered Properties in Saipan, Tinian and Rota

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide ground maintenance services for its properties in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan beginning Tuesday, April 16, 2013, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Conference Room located in the Garapan, Saipan, on **Monday, April 22, 2013, at 9:00 a.m.** Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the properties owned by NMHC to be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visits are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements, and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB 2013-003**. For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time Friday, May 3, 2013.** Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Friday, May 3, 2013,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later **Friday, May 3, 2013**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **Friday, May 10, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **10:00 a.m., local time, Monday, May 13, 2013.** However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time on Friday, May 3, 2013.**

All labor on this project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of $5.55 per hour which took effect on October 1, 2012 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of $.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor, whichever is higher.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301 (which also includes an inspection of equipment and its manpower).

The Commonwealth Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined by the government to be in its best interest. All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

For information, contact Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

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INVITATION FOR BID

NMHC IFB 2013-004

This ad is paid with NSP Funds by NMHC

Installation of Perimeter Chain Link Fence and Accordion Typhoon Shutters for Three (3) NSP Properties

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide Installation of Perimeter Chain Link Fence and Accordion Typhoon Shutters for Three (3) NSP Properties, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan beginning Tuesday, April 16, 2013, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Conference Room located in the Garapan, Saipan, on **Monday, April 22, 2013, at 11:00 a.m.** Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the three (3) NSP properties owned by NMHC to be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visits are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements, and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB 2013-004**. For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time Friday, May 3, 2013.** Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Friday, May 3, 2013,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later **Friday, May 3, 2013,** and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **Friday, May 10, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **11:00 a.m., local time, Monday, May 13, 2013.** However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **1:30 p.m., local time on Friday, May 3, 2013.**

All labor on this project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of $5.55 per hour which took effect on October 1, 2012 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of $.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor, whichever is higher.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: NMHC IFB 2013-004". Surety companies must hold a Certified of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for the completion of this project is forty-five (45) days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for the delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars ($125.00) per calendar day.

The Commonwealth Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined by the government to be in its best interest. All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

For information, contact Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
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32nd ANNUAL FLAME TREE Arts Festival

Featuring Delegates from Kiribati, Chuuk, Guam, Rota and Tinian

ART MUSIC FOOD CRAFT

Artist Dedication and Recognition

Francisco Dela Cruz

Connie J. Adams

Daniel Keli'i Johnson

Frances Camacho Keremius

These artists and advocates played a significant role in ensuring that our cultural and artistic heritage is both strengthened and perpetuated. While we will miss them, their spirits live on and we dedicate this 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival to them. Thank you!

April 19, 2013 Friday 6:00 pm-11:00 pm
April 20, 2013 Saturday 10:00 am-11:00 pm
(Official Opening Ceremony 9:00 am - 10:00 am)
April 21, 2013 Sunday 10:00 am-11:00 pm

Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture

Be A Part promote, preserve & perpetuate your CULTURE

Civic Center Park, Susupe, Saipan CNMI

MAJOR SPONSORS

DELTA SKYTEAM IT&E Bank of Guam The People's Bank Member FDIC Tan Siu Lin Foundation Tan Holdings D'Elegance Cafe Bridge Capital (CNMI), LLC Coca-Cola

Entertainment Lineup

Friday, April 19, 2013
6:00-11:00

18:00 Awadori CNMi TEAM
18:30 Tinian Delegation Alicin Cruz
18:45 Guam Melvin Won Pat Borja
19:00 Coconut Jamboree
19:30 Koblerville Umang Glee
20:00 Tae Kwondo Blue Dragon
21:00 Cab Dancers
21:30 Tinatak Dancers
22:00 Closing

Joe Limes/Gordon

Saturday, April 20, 2013
10:00-11:00

9:00 Ceremony
10:00 Man Amkos
10:30 MHS (Poksai INATUA)
11:00 Tinian Delegation
11:30 Bullet Train
12:30 Guam Delegate (Irensian Taotao)
13:00 MHS (Chorale)
13:30 Kagman High School Refaluwach Cultural Club
14:00 Guam (Underground)
14:30 Ukulele Jams
15:00 Saipan Music and Dance Studio
15:30 FBI
16:00 Afetnas Regime
17:00 Uncle Bens Music and Dance
17:30 New Boys/Jaw Babys (Rota)
18:00 Green Meadow
18:30 Anna Glushko's Academy
19:30 Pua Hinano
20:30 MHS (Poksai INATUA)
21:00 Guam Delegate (Irensian Taotao)
21:30 Kagman High School Refaluwasch Cultural Club
22:00 Marvin Deleon Guerrero
23:00 Closing

10:00-13:00 Frances Sablan/John Gonzales
13:00-15:00 Tony Angui and Gary Sword
15:00-18:00 LJ Castro
18:00-23:00 Gordon Marciano/Joe Limes

Sunday, April 21, 2013
10:00-11:00

10:00 New Boy's Dance Crew (Rota Delegation)
11:00 Tinian Delegate
11:30 Guam Underground
12:00 Kristle and Abel
12:30 Guam Delegation (Irensian Taotao)
13:00 MHS (Glee)
13:30 Jawbabys Dance Crew
14:00 Maluw Band
14:30 Kagman High School Refaluwach Cultural Club
15:00 Cab Dancers
15:30 Alan School of Dance
16:00 Green Meadow
16:30 Little Hands
17:00 Koblerville Umang Glee Club
18:00 Uncle Bens Music and Dance School
18:30 MCF
19:00 Rainbow Dancers
19:30 MHS (Poksai INATUA)
20:00 Pacifc Flowers
21:00 Guam Delegation (Irensian Taotao)
21:30 Refaluwasch Warriors
22:00 Parker
23:00 Closing

10:00-13:00 Mama Lu and RJ Joe Limes
13:00-15:00 Tony Angui/Gary Sword
15:00-18:00 LJ Castro
18:00-23:00 Gordon I. Marciano

Soft opening tonight for weekend's Flame Tree Arts Festival

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All is set for the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival, which promises to highlight the rich arts and culture in the Marianas and Micronesia.

The festival will have its soft opening tonight at 6pm, with dozens of artist and food vendor booths ready for business as well as performers geared up to take center stage.

This year's event will feature artists and performers not only from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota but also from the neighboring islands of Guam, Kiribati, and Chuuk.

The official ceremony welcoming off-island delegations and other participants will be held tomorrow at 9am at the festival grounds at Civic Center Beach Park in Susupe, which means the weekly Sabalu Farmers Market will be moved to the Garapan Fishing Base.

The festival committee also announced yesterday additional corporate sponsors for the biggest outdoor arts event in the Commonwealth.

Bank of Guam, a long-time patron of the event, donated $3,000 for this year's event. Presenting the donation to committee members were Marcie M. Tomokane, vice president and CNMI regional manager, and Yvonne DLG Reyes, assistant vice president and credit officer.

Tomokane said they are very pleased to be a major contributor for the yearly festival, adding that she herself goes to the venue to watch the performances and view all art exhibitions.

"Through the years, we've been in support of this highly anticipated event that features our local artists showcasing their products and skills. It's a very exciting, three-day weekend event that's worth going," said Tomokane.

Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) and Foremost Foods Saipan donated various beverage products and cooler bags for use in the festival raffle draw to be held on Sunday. Warehouse supervisor Satyananda Maharjan, sales supervisor Gerry Hemley, and operations manager Rusty M. Loyola presented the donation.

The companies' chief executive officer, Marcos W. Fong, said in a statement that they are proud to support the festival.

"Our brands are committed to supporting local artists and culture through the biggest exposition of arts and crafts in our island community and the region," said Fong. "We look forward to many more years of partnership with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture in growing the Flame Tree Arts Festival."

Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog said they are thrilled to have anew the sponsorship of corporate sponsors that have always been involved in their signature event.

"The commitment of strategic business partners like Bank of Guam, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) and Foremost Foods Saipan are essential [to] the success of the Annual Flame Tree Festival," he added.

Hocog invited the community to visit the festival grounds throughout the three-day event. "Let us all our part to promote, preserve, and perpetuate the arts and culture of our proud islands," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

For more information, visit the council on Capital Hill next to the post office or call 322-9982 or 83.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Organizers of the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival receive additional contributions from Bank of Guam which donated $3,000, above photo, and Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) and Foremost Foods Saipan, which donated various beverage products (right photo).

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-018

RENEWABLE ENERGY INTEGRATION STUDY

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for a Renewable Energy Integration Study for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The focus of this Renewable Energy Integration Study will be:

- To determine how much variable renewable energy (Solar PV and Wind) can CUC economically integrate into its grid?
- To investigate the operational impact - at penetration levels ranging from 10% to 50% - for Solar PV and Wind generation.

A Power System Analysis software with a Renewable Energy module will be purchased and installed on CUC computers for grid studies and operations. The contractor will recommend and install the software on computers provided by CUC. The contractor will model CUC's grid and carry out related Load-flow, Short Circuit, Stability (dynamic and transient), Transient and Protection analysis, as well as simulations.

The study should address these questions:

1. What is the impact of up to 50% variable renewable energy penetration and how can this be accommodated?
2. How much Solar PV or Wind generation can be connected on any of CUC's 13.8KV distribution feeders? Can geographic diversity or distributed generation will help mitigate variability?
3. How spinning reserve should be modified to account for the variability in Wind and Solar PV generation. What is the additional cost of spinning due to this variability?
4. What is the increased O&M cost of diesel generators due to increased ramping and cycling?
5. What are the Short Circuit levels and currents at interconnection points on the grid?
6. What are the supply quality problems; including voltage stability /collapse and frequency fluctuations?

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on April 30, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-13-018,Renewable Energy Integration Study",* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 20, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than May 10, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Parents invited to Summer Academy info session

Parents of high school seniors and juniors are invited to participate in an information session on Saturday, April 20, 2013, to learn about the Summer Academy organized by College Access Challenge Grant Program at the Northern Marianas College.

The Summer Academy affords high school students an opportunity to gain meaningful college experience while earning transferable college credits. The Academy familiarizes students with college life while they are still in high school and can be an excellent way to help students prepare for their eventual transition to college after graduation.

In addition to college level work, participants of the Summer Academy will also receive college advising, academic tutoring, and college-preparatory, and life skills training.

The program is fully funded by the CACG, which aims to increase the number of underserved and minority students who are enrolling in college. To do this, CACG provides a scholarship award of $800 to eligible students to cover the cost of their courses.

The April 20, 2013, information session for parents will be from 9am to 12pm at NMC's Student Center. Parents of high school seniors and juniors are strongly encouraged to participate and to meet with representatives of the CAGC program to learn more about the Summer Academy.

The agenda for the sessions will include a discussion of the Summer Academy Experience, the early admissions process, financial aid opportunities, and other important topics.

The Summer Academy for students will run from June 28, 2013, through Aug. 12, 2013. Although classes for the Summer Academy will be held at NMC's As Terlaje campus, some activities will be located off-campus and will be announced in advance. Eligibility for participation in the Summer Academy is based on low-income status and English placement level. Participation is determined on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information about the information session for parents or the Summer Academy for students, contact Hedwig Hofschneider at 234-5498 Ext. 1346 or email cacg@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Business

American Airlines tries to catch up on flights

DALLAS (AP)—American Airlines played catch-up Wednesday, resuming most flights and even adding a handful that were not on the schedule to help passengers stranded by a massive technology failure that grounded the carrier's entire U.S. fleet.

A day after the nationwide breakdown, some cancellations persisted, and delays were still common. About a third of American flights were late as of mid-afternoon.

American's CEO blamed Tuesday's failure on a software problem that knocked out computers needed for booking flights, tracking bags, loading and fueling planes and more.

"As you'd imagine, we do have redundancies in our system," Tom Horton, chief executive of parent company AMR Corp., said in an apology posted on YouTube. "But unfortunately in this case, we had a software issue that impacted both our primary and backup systems."

AP

Andrea Clarke sits next to her luggage as she tries to get back home to Barbados, Tuesday, April 16, 2013, at the Miami International Airport in Miami.

American and smaller-jet subsidiary American Eagle said Wednesday night that they canceled 475 flights but that most were due to bad weather and only 81 related to technical issues. However, United and Southwest had roughly half as many cancellations as American, and other major airlines had even fewer, according to flight-tracking services.

Still, American's performance was a huge improvement over Tuesday, when the computer trouble brought all departures to a halt for several hours. American and Eagle canceled nearly 1,000 flights and delayed another 1,100. Two-thirds of their scheduled flights were late or never took off.

On Wednesday, American added seven unscheduled flights to accommodate passengers stranded the day before in Chicago, Dallas and Los Angeles.

As marooned passengers resume their travels, questions lingered about the technology and whether American's systems will be adequate to avoid similar collapses after the company merges with US Airways to form the world's biggest airline.

Money has been tight for airlines in recent years, so spending has been focused on immediate needs rather than upgrading technology, said Ira Gershkoff, who runs SlipStream Aviation Software and has worked as a technology executive for Polar Air Cargo, travel technology company Sabre and at American Airlines.

"For at least the last 20 years, they have underinvested in their systems," he said of the industry.

Japan logs record $83.4B trade deficit in FY2012

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's trade deficit rose to a record $83.4 billion in the last fiscal year, as exports faltered despite the weakening yen and costs for imported gas and crude oil rose.

Customs figures released Thursday also showed a deficit in March for the ninth month in a row, of 362.4 billion yen ($3.7 billion), down from February's gap of 779.5 billion yen.

Exports fell 2.1 percent in the April-March fiscal year from the year before, to 63.9 trillion yen ($652.4 billion) while imports rose 3.4 percent to 72.1 trillion yen ($735.8 billion). The deficit of 8.17 trillion yen ($83.4 billion) was up 84 percent from the previous fiscal year's 4.4 trillion yen ($45.1) shortfall.

A sharp depreciation in Japan's currency since late 2012 has failed to fully offset weak demand for Japan's exports as shipments to China have suffered from a flare-up in tensions over a territorial dispute. Meanwhile, the weaker yen means higher costs for rising imports of natural gas, which is priced in dollar terms, to help compensate for the loss of nuclear power generation capacity after most atomic power plants remain closed after the 2011 disaster at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant in northeastern Japan.

Japan's exports to China fell 9.1 percent in fiscal 2012, while its exports to the rest of Asia fell almost 42 percent, the figures show. Shipments to the European Union dropped 14 percent, while imports rose 4.5 percent.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GM says diesel Chevrolet Cruze gets 46 mpg

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Co. says the new diesel version of the Chevrolet Cruze gets 46 miles per gallon on the highway, making it more efficient than some hybrids. GM announced the U.S. EPA's fuel economy numbers for the diesel Cruze Wednesday. At 46 mpg, the diesel Cruze matches the highway fuel economy of the Toyota Prius C subcompact. But the regular Prius hybrid still does better, at 48 mpg.

ING to sell stake in US arm for up to $1.5 billion

AMSTERDAM (AP)—ING Groep NV says it will sell a 25 percent stake in its U.S. arm for around $1.4-$1.5 billion in an initial public offering, as part of measures demanded by the European Commission to compensate after ING received a bailout from the Dutch government in 2008. ING U.S. has insurance, investment and retirement businesses. The IPO price range suggests ING U.S. is worth $6 billion, less than half the $14.2 billion the company had valued it on its books. ING said it expected the listing to lead to a 1.6 billion euros ($2.1 billion) reduction in shareholders' equity, but the offering "will not have a material impact on the regulatory capital of either ING insurance or ING bank."

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Division of Public Health Services

WIC
WOMEN • INFANTS • CHILDREN

ANNOUNCEMENT

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines 2013-2014

On March 29, 2013, a Notice announcing the revised WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines was published in the Federal Register. The adjusted income eligibility guidelines are used by State agencies in determining the income eligibility of persons applying to participate in the WIC Program. **The CNMI WIC Program will be implementing the new guidelines effective May 1, 2013.** So please check to see if you now qualify.

To be eligible on the basis of income, applicants' gross income (i.e. before taxes are withheld) must fall at or below 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines (see below).

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines
(Effective from May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014)

48 Contiguous States, D.C., Guam and Territories					
	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	$21,257	$1,772	$886	$818	$409
2	28,694	2,392	1,196	1,104	552
3	36,131	3,011	1,506	1,390	695
4	43,568	3,631	1,816	1,676	838
5	51,005	4,251	2,126	1,962	981
6	58,442	4,871	2,436	2,248	1,124
7	65,879	5,490	2,745	2,534	1,267
8	73,316	6,110	3,055	2,820	1,410
Each Add'l Member Add	+$7,437	+$620	+$310	+$287	+$144

A person or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs, such as the Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly the Food Stamp Program), or Medicaid automatically meet the income eligibility requirement. For more information please call the WIC Clinic at 664-4084.

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Nation

Boston official: Video footage shows bomb suspect

BOSTON (AP)—In what could be major break in the Boston Marathon case, investigators are on the hunt for a man seen in a department store surveillance video dropping off a bag at the site of the bombings, a local politician said Wednesday.

Separately, a law enforcement official confirmed that authorities have found an image of a potential suspect but don't know his name.

The development—less than 48 hours after the attack, which left three people dead and more than 170 wounded—marked a possible turning point in a case that has investigators analyzing photos and videos frame by frame for clues to who carried out the twin bombings and why.

City Council President Stephen Murphy, who said he was briefed by Boston police, said investigators saw the image on surveillance footage they got from a department store near the finish line and matched the findings with witness descriptions of someone leaving the scene.

"I know it's very active and very fluid right now—that they are on the chase," Murphy said. He added: "They may be on the verge of arresting someone, and that's good."

AP

Officials stand guard near the site of the Boston Marathon explosions, Wednesday, April 17, 2013, in Boston.

The bombs were crudely fashioned from ordinary kitchen pressure cookers packed with explosives, nails and ball bearings, investigators and others close to the case said. Investigators suspect the devices were then hidden in black duffel bags and left on the ground.

As a result, they were looking for images of someone lugging a dark, heavy bag. One department store video "has confirmed that a suspect is seen dropping a bag near the point of the second explosion and heading off," Murphy said.

A law enforcement official who was not authorized to discuss the case publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity confirmed only that investigators had an image of a potential suspect whose name was not known to them and who had not been questioned.

Several media outlets reported that a suspect had been identified from surveillance video taken at a Lord & Taylor department store between the sites of the bomb blasts.

The turn of events came with Boston in a state of high excitement over conflicting reports of a breakthrough.

A law enforcement official briefed on the investigation told the AP around midday that a suspect was in custody. The official, who was not authorized to divulge details of the investigation and spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the suspect was expected in federal court. But the FBI and the U.S. attorney's office in Boston said no arrests had been made.

By nightfall, there was no evidence anyone was in custody. No one was taken to court. The law enforcement official, who had affirmed there was a suspect in custody even after federal officials denied it, was unable to obtain any further information or explanation.

At least 14 bombing victims remained in critical condition. Dozens have been released from hospitals, and officials at three hospitals that treated some of the most seriously injured said they expected all their remaining patients to survive.

On Wednesday, investigators in white jumpsuits fanned out across the streets, rooftops and awnings around the blast site in search of clues. They picked through trash cans, plastic cup sleeves and discarded sports drink dispensers.

Boston remained under a heavy security presence, and some people admitted they were nervous about moving about in public spaces.

Tyler King, a personal trainer from Attleboro who works in Boston, said four of five clients canceled on him a day earlier because they were worried about venturing into the city. He took the train in, but "I kind of kept my head on a swivel."

Kenya Nadry, a website designer, took her 5-year-old nephew to a playground.

"There's still some sense of fear, but I feel like Boston's resilient," she said. "The fine men in blue will take care of a lot of it."

Police were stationed on street corners across downtown Boston, while National Guardsmen set up tents on the Boston Common and stationed tactical vehicles.

Dr. Horacio Hojman, associate chief of trauma at Tufts Medical Center, said patients were in surprisingly good spirits when they were brought in.

"Despite what they witnessed, despite what they suffered, despite many of them having life-threatening injuries, their spirits were not broken," he said. "And I think that should probably be the message for all of us—that this horrible act of terror will not bring us down."

President Barack Obama and his challenger in the last election, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, planned to visit Boston on Thursday to attend a service honoring the victims.

The blasts killed 8-year-old Martin Richard, of Boston, and 29-year-old Krystle Campbell, of Medford. The Shenyang Evening News, a state-run Chinese newspaper, identified the third victim as Lu Lingzi, a graduate student at Boston University.

Unknown number killed in Texas plant explosion

WEST, Texas (AP)—A massive explosion at a fertilizer plant near Waco on Wednesday night injured dozens of people and killed an unknown number of others. The blast sent flames shooting into the night sky, leaving the factory a smoldering ruin and leveling buildings for blocks in every direction.

The explosion at West Fertilizer in West, a community about 20 miles north of Waco, happened shortly before 8 p.m. and could be heard as far away as Waxahachie, 45 miles to the north.

Although authorities said it will be some time before they know the full extent of the loss of life, Texas Department of Public Safety spokesman D.L. Wilson said just after midnight that an unknown number of people had died.

West Mayor Tommy Muska told reporters that his city of about 2,800 residents needs "your prayers."

"We've got a lot of people who are hurt, and there's a lot of people, I'm sure, who aren't gonna be here tomorrow," Muska said. "We're gonna search for everybody. We're gonna make sure everybody's accounted for. That's the most important thing right now."

A member of the city council, Al Vanek, said there is a four-block area around the explosion "that is totally decimated." Wilson said the damage was comparable to the destruction caused by the 1995 bomb blast that destroyed the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

Muska, who is also a volunteer firefighter, said the town's department went to the plant to fight a fire about 6:30 p.m., and the blast that followed knocked off his fire helmet and blew out the doors and windows of his home nearby.

He said main fire was under control as of 11 p.m., but residents were urged to remain indoors because of the threat of new explosions or leaks of ammonia from the plant's ruins.

Among the damaged buildings was what appeared to be a housing complex with a collapsed roof, a nearby middle school and the West Rest Haven Nursing Home, from which first-responders evacuated 133 patients, some in wheelchairs.

"We did get there and got that taken care of," Muska said.

Erick Perez, 21, of West, was playing basketball at a nearby school when the fire started. He and his friends thought nothing of it at first, but about a half hour later, the smoke changed color. The blast threw him, his nephew and others to the ground, and showered the area with hot embers, shrapnel and debris.

"The explosion was like nothing I've ever seen before," Perez said. "This town is hurt really bad."

Gun control loses: No expanded background checks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republicans backed by a small band of rural-state Democrats scuttled the most far-reaching gun control legislation in two decades Wednesday, rejecting tighter background checks for buyers and a ban on assault weapons as they spurned pleas from families of victims of last winter's school massacre in Newtown, Conn.

"This effort isn't over," President Barack Obama vowed at the White House moments after the defeat on one of his top domestic priorities. Surrounded by Newtown relatives, he said opponents of the legislation in both parties "caved to the pressure" of special interests. A ban on high-capacity ammunition magazines also fell in a series of showdown votes four months after a gunman killed 20 elementary school children and six staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary.

AP

Carlee Soto, sister of Sandy Hook teacher Victoria Soto, left, and Erica Laffferty, daughter of Sandy Hook principal Dawn Hochsprung, embrace outside the Senate chamber after a vote on gun legislation on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, April 17, 2013, in Washington.

A bid to loosen restrictions on concealed weapons carried across state lines was rejected, as well.

That last vote marked a rare defeat for the National Rifle Association on a day it generally triumphed over Obama, gun control advocates and many of the individuals whose lives have been affected by mass shootings in Connecticut and elsewhere.

Some of them watched from the spectator galleries above the Senate floor. "Shame on you," shouted one, Patricia Maisch, who was present two years ago when a gunman in Tucson, Ariz., killed six and wounded 13 others, including former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

Vice President Joe Biden gaveled the Senate back into order after the breach of decorum.

Gun control advocates, including Obama, had voiced high hopes for significant action after the Newtown shootings. But the lineup of possible legislation gradually dwindled to a focus on background checks, and in the end even that could not win Senate passage. Chances in the Republican-controlled House had seemed even slimmer.

Miss. man accused of sending letters with ricin

OXFORD, Miss. (AP)—A Mississippi man was arrested Wednesday, accused of sending letters to President Barack Obama and a senator that tested positive for the poisonous ricin and set the nation's capital on edge a day after the Boston Marathon bombings.

FBI Special Agent in Charge Daniel McMullen said Paul Kevin Curtis, 45, was arrested at 5:15 p.m. at his apartment in Corinth, near the Tennessee state line about 100 miles east of Memphis. It wasn't immediately known where he was being held.

Authorities still waited for definitive tests on the letters to Obama and Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss. Preliminary field tests can often show false positives for ricin. The letters were intercepted before reaching the White House or Senate.

An FBI intelligence bulletin obtained by The Associated Press said those two letters were postmarked Memphis, Tenn.

Both letters said: "To see a wrong and not expose it, is to become a silent partner to its continuance." Both were signed, "I am KC and I approve this message."

As authorities scurried to investigate three questionable packages discovered in Senate office buildings, reports of suspicious items also came in from at least three senators' offices in their home states.

Sen. Carl Levin said a staff member at his Saginaw, Mich., office would spend the night in a hospital as a precaution after discovering a suspicious letter. The staff member had no symptoms, Levin said in a statement. He expected to learn preliminary results of tests on the letter by Thursday.

Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., said suspicious letters at his Phoenix office had been cleared with nothing dangerous found. A package at Sen. John Cornyn's Dallas-area office also was declared harmless, a fire department spokesman said.

All three packages in the Capitol complex turned out to be safe, Capitol police spokeswoman Makema Turner said late Wednesday. But a man was still being questioned after being stopped in connection with the packages, she said.

All the activity came as tensions were high in Washington and across the country following Monday's bombings at the Boston Marathon that killed three people and injured more than 170. The FBI said there was no indication of a connection between the letters and the bombing. The letters to Obama and Wicker were postmarked April 8, before the marathon.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

China open to 'constructive' role from US

BEIJING (Xinhua)—China welcomes the United States to participate in Asia-Pacific affairs "in a constructive manner," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a press conference Tuesday. In response to a question about Secretary of State John Kerry's remarks on the United States' policy toward the Asia Pacific region, Hua said China is ready to carry out healthy interaction with the United States in the Asia-Pacific region so as to jointly maintain regional peace, stability and prosperity. During his visit to Japan on Monday, Kerry made a speech under the title "Remarks on a 21st Century Pacific Partnership" in Tokyo. In his speech, Kerry elaborated on the U.S. strategy of "rebalancing" its interests in the Asia-Pacific region, calling it the U.S. "dream for the Pacific region." In response, Hua said China holds an open, inclusive and all-win perspective on the Asia-Pacific region. "Persistent peace and common prosperity are the universal dream of all the countries in the Asia-Pacific region," she said.

13 inmates with gun escape from Philippine jail

BACOLOD, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police say 13 inmates, some accused of murder, have escaped from a provincial jail in a central province using a smuggled gun to disarm guards. Police Senior Supt. Ricardo de la Paz says the inmates pointed a pistol and improvised knives at three guards, disarming one of them Wednesday in Sagay city in Negros Occidental province. One inmate fired at and destroyed a padlock at the main gate, allowing him and a dozen other inmates to make a dash to freedom. Police scoured a vast sugarcane field but failed to find the inmates, three of whom were facing murder charges.

410 pigs and 122 dogs found dead in central China

BEIJING (AP)—Hundreds more pigs have been found dead in China—this time together with dozens of dogs. A total of 410 pigs and 122 dogs were discovered in homes and at farms earlier this week in a village that comes under Yanshi city's jurisdiction in central Henan province, authorities said Wednesday. The city's propaganda office said that the deaths were being investigated but that they suspected they had to do with nearby chemical factories. The factories have been ordered to suspend production and help police with a criminal investigation into the incident, according to a report on a Henan provincial news website.

North Korean exiles scoff at talk of war

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Asked if there might be war, the 40ish woman with the spangly purple shirt laughed out loud. She waved her hands back and forth, as if whisking away a pesky insect.

She fled North Korea late last summer, pushing her way at night through the chest-deep waters of the Amnok River, following a guide into China and, eventually, to South Korea. The journey cost her $5,000, a fortune back home.

AP

In this Saturday, April 13, 2013 file photo, two men push their bicycles as a man, back, squats and watches the street in Pyongyang, North Korea.

She comes from a part of rural North Korea where electricity is a rarity, and the punishing winters seem to last forever. She came to a city of two-story-tall TV screens that light up the night, a city stalked by armies of financial analysts in well-tailored suits.

Now, amid international fears that North Korea may be preparing for another missile test, and repeated warnings from Pyongyang that it will destroy its enemies, she simply scoffs. The exiles have seen life in both Koreas, and are unimpressed with what they left behind.

"It's not even possible for North Korea to have a war," said the woman, who spent years arranging black market deals for bronze smuggled to China. She asked that her name and other identifying details not be used, to protect relatives still living in the North.

"They don't have fuel. They don't have electricity," she said. "Even if they yell to the world that they'll go to war, it's all just talk."

Foreign analysts have long said that North Korea's desperate shortages are, in part, because Pyongyang channels so much of its resources to the military and into weapons development. But in a country where many soldiers have to spend months every year working on farms or construction projects, and where bicycles remain a status symbol for most people, the exiles say North Korea is so poor and undeveloped that it knows it would lose any fight.

North Korea's most recent round of threats, including warnings of pre-emptive nuclear attacks on the United States, come in the wake of U.N. sanctions approved after Pyongyang's February nuclear test. They also come during annual U.S.-South Korea military maneuvers, which Pyongyang has long seen as a provocation.

Thousands of Pakistanis homeless after quake

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Thousands of people are homeless and desperate for aid in southwestern Pakistan following a deadly earthquake centered in neighboring Iran that toppled scores of mud brick homes and killed at least 36 people, officials said Wednesday.

The Pakistani army has deployed several hundred soldiers to help the relief effort in Mashkel, the area of Baluchistan province hit hardest by Tuesday's magnitude 7.8 earthquake. But many residents in Mashkel, where nearly all homes were destroyed, said they were unhappy with the government's response.

"I appeal to the government. I appeal to the international community to help us with food, medicine, tents and blankets," Syed Mureed Shah, one of the top officials in surrounding Washak district, told The Associated Press by telephone. "Come and see with your own eyes the damage caused by the earthquake."

At least 35 people were killed and 150 injured in Pakistan, according to Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority. Iran's main state TV channel said Wednesday that only one person was killed in Iran—a woman who was struck by falling rocks while she was collecting herbs—and that 12 people were injured.

Iran's state-run Press TV initially reported a much higher death toll in Iran, saying 40 people had been killed, but later backed away from that figure. The discrepancies and apparent backtracking in the reports could not be immediately reconciled because the affected areas are remote and difficult to reach.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DLNR/DFW-102

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 30, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"AVIAN RESEARCH PROJECT FOR THE DEPT. OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PARTS, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, **-v-** **ENRIQUE Q. SALAS and ROSARIO T. SALAS,** Defendants.	]]]]]]]]]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0067** **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

DATED April 09, 2013 by order of the Court:

/s/ Clerk of Court

JANET HAN KING
KING LAW OFFICE
D'Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 520030
Tinian MP 96952
Tel: 433-0419/235-8060
Fax: 235-8070

Loren A. Sutton
LAW OFFICES OF LOREN A. SUTTON
D'Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 5593
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone (670) 989-0627
Fax (670) 235-8070

Counsels for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ZHANG, MEI JIA dba SISTER MARKET, Plaintiff, **Vs.** **EAP CORPORATION dba FILTRADE GENERAL CONSTRUCTION dba CARPET SUPPLY and SERVICES and EUFROCINIO PINON,** Defendants.	]]]]]]]]]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0051** **SUMMONS**

TO DEFENDANTS: EAP CORPORATION and EUFROCINIO PINON

YOU ARE HEREBY summoned and notified to file an answer, you make the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Loren A. Sutton, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Loren A. Sutton, P.O. Box 5593, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to this Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Guma Hustisia Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed by you or for you, by your counsel, and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

DATED, this 28th day of February, 2013:

/s/ Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiffs, **-v-** **DORA C. REYES and BARBARA ANN REYES,** Defendants.	]]]]]]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0320** **FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 10, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Tract 21878-6-1 (part of Tract 21878-6, which was part of original Tract 21878, A.H. 575), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2064/83, the original of which was recorded on April 8, 1983 as Document No. 16910, at the Land Registry, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 3, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of March, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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- You should be result oriented and must be well organized, reliable, punctual, and a self-starter.
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Email info@dqsaipan.com

World

Options narrow for Venezuelan opposition

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela's opposition watched its options dwindle Wednesday after the head of the Supreme Court said there could be no recount of the razor-thin presidential election victory by Hugo Chavez's heir, leaving many government foes feeling the only chance at power is to wait for the ruling socialists to stumble.

Opposition activists and independent observers called the judge's declaration blatant and legally unfounded favoritism from a purportedly independent body that is packed with confederates of President-elect Nicolas Maduro, Chavez's hand-picked successor.

The recount issue isn't before the court, but its president, Luisa Morales, appeared on television at midday to declare that the opposition call for an examination of each and every paper vote receipt had "angered many Venezuelans."

It was an unsubtle reminder that virtually every lever of power in Venezuela sits in the hands of a ruling party unafraid to use almost all means at its disposal to marginalize its opponents.

"In Venezuela the system is absolutely automatic, in such a way that manual recounts don't exist," Morales said.

Opposition candidate Henrique Capriles later told a TV interviewer that Morales should be disqualified from legal decision on petition that his campaign filed Wednesday for a recount.

A day earlier, Capriles canceled a march in the capital planned for Wednesday, saying the government planned to react with violence. That decision came after Maduro urged his own supporters to take to the streets Wednesday.

Maduro hectored the opposition during a 45-minute live appearance on state television Wednesday, calling his opponents "fascists" plotting to overthrow the government.

"Superman could not win an election here," Diego Arria, a former U.N. ambassador and conservative member of the opposition coalition, said resignedly.

"We're left with the option of calling the United Nations, the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, but that won't have any impact here," Arria told The Associated Press. "If the population stands down, we lose."

The National Electoral Council on Monday ratified Maduro as the winner of the previous day's vote with 50.8 percent to Capriles' 49 percent.

The United States, meanwhile, appeared to soften its insistence on a recount as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry left open the possibility of recognizing Maduro as president even the votes aren't reviewed.

The Obama administration has stood almost alone, along with Paraguay and Panama, in insisting on a recount as other governments congratulated Maduro, who is scheduled to be formally sworn in Friday.

Maduro's government said 15 countries had confirmed they were sending high-level delegations, among them Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Iran, China, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Haiti, Uruguay and Argentina.

Kerry said there was no plan to send a U.S. diplomat but when asked about whether the U.S. would recognize Maduro as legitimate, he said, "I can't give you a yes-or-no answer on that."

"If there are huge irregularities, we're going to have serious questions about the viability of that government. But that evaluation has to be made, and I haven't made it yet," Kerry told the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Maduro boomed angrily in a later TV appearance.

"Take your eyes off Venezuela, John Kerry! Get out of here! Enough interventionism!"

◀ A 'Chavista' demonstrator shouts as supporters of President-elect Nicolas Maduro march in front of the National Electoral Council (CNE) in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, April 17, 2013. AP

Rift over Mandela companies deepens

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—A granddaughter of Nelson Mandela has harshly criticized a longtime associate of the former president and anti-apartheid leader, in an escalation of a dispute over funds linked to one of the world's most revered figures.

Tukwini Mandela accused lawyer George Bizos of insulting her mother, slandering the Mandela family name and spreading "blatant lies and innuendo" in a bitter rift over control of two companies linked to 94-year-old Mandela. The main purpose of the companies is to channel funds from the sale of handprint artwork by Mandela for the benefit of his family.

"Please have the decency to behave as an elder if you care for my grandfather and his name, which catapulted you into undeserved stardom," Tukwini Mandela wrote in an open letter that was emailed to The Associated Press on Tuesday. She urged Bizos, a stalwart of the struggle for equal rights in South Africa, to act in a manner "befitting of your status" in society.

In a statement sent to AP, Bizos said he had not been disrespectful to Nelson Mandela or his family.

"I have been a close friend and supporter of the family for over six decades," he said. He added that he would leave it to a court to decide on issues raised in a legal case brought against him and several associates by Makaziwe Mandela, Tukwini's mother.

The disagreement comes as Nelson Mandela, who last appeared in public in 2010, receives medical care at his Johannesburg home after several hospital visits in recent months. He is seen globally as a symbol of reconciliation and sacrifice after spending 27 years in prison during racist white rule and then leading South Africa's transition to democratic, all-race elections in 1994.

The dispute over the funds troubles many South Africans for whom corruption, high crime rates and economic inequality have tainted the new South Africa. Mandela was South Africa's first black president and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Makaziwe Mandela and her sister Zenani have launched a court case against Bizos and other associates of Nelson Mandela, alleging they should not remain directors of Harmonieux Investment Holdings and Magnifique Investment Holdings because they were not properly appointed. The case also alleges that the trio has neglected its duties at the helm of the companies.

Iraq executes 21 men convicted of terrorism

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq has executed 21 prisoners convicted on terrorism charges and links to al-Qaida, the Justice Ministry said Wednesday, setting off fresh criticism from a human rights expert over Baghdad's insistence on enforcing capital punishment.

The prisoners were executed by hanging in the Iraqi capital on Tuesday, according to a statement posted on the ministry's website. All the convicts were Iraqi al-Qaida operatives who were involved in bombings, car bomb attacks and assassinations, the statement said.

The hangings brought the number of prisoners executed in Iraq so far this year to 50, according to Deputy Justice Minister Busho Ibrahim. The latest group was the biggest this year, Ibrahim added.

According to the London-based Amnesty International, Iraq ranked fourth among the top five executioners in the world in 2011, after China, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the U.S. Last year Iraq executed 129 people, triggering concerns among rights groups over whether defendants had received fair trials.

After the U.S.-led invasion in 2003, coalition officials suspended Iraq's death penalty, but it was reinstated in 2004 by Iraq's transitional government. Since 2005, Iraq's government has executed 422 people, including women and foreigners convicted on terrorism charges.

Erin Evers, a Middle East researcher at Human Rights Watch, said the number of those executed and the timing of the latest announcement were cause for concern. On Saturday, Iraqis vote in local elections, the country's first vote since the withdrawal of the last U.S. forces in December 2011.

Doctors flee Puerto Rico for US mainland

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Going to the doctor in Puerto Rico has for years often meant getting in line. Now, it might mean getting on a plane.

A medical exodus is taking place in the Caribbean territory as doctors and nurses flee for the U.S. mainland, seeking higher salaries and better reimbursement from insurers. Many of their patients, frustrated by long waits and a scarcity of specialists, are finding they have no choice but to follow them off the island.

Among them is Marilu Flores, a 60-year-old rural mail carrier who is battling advanced rheumatoid arthritis.

She not only is flying to the U.S. mainland to receive treatment; she's moving to Texas. "The best doctors left a long time ago," she said.

In the last five years, the number of doctors in Puerto Rico has dropped by 13 percent, from 11,397 to 9,950, according to the island's Medical Licensing and Studies Board. The biggest losses are primary care physicians and specialists within a specialty, such as thoracic oncologists.

Of the roughly 400 cardiologists who practiced in Puerto Rico about five years ago, only about 150 remain. The number of anesthesiologists has dropped from roughly 300 to about 100 in roughly the same time period, said Dr. Eduardo Ibarra, president of the island's Association of Surgeons.

"Same with the neurosurgeons. They don't even number 20 now," Ibarra said. "There are no specialized surgeons in certain areas."

Those seeking a thoracic oncologist, for example, have to go to Florida, if they can afford it.

"It's truly catastrophic," he said.

The exodus of doctors is part of a larger wave of professionals who have left the U.S. island territory in recent years, settling in states such as Florida and New York, where there is a big demand for bilingual workers, especially police and nurses. Many Puerto Ricans also seek to escape a wave of violent crime and higher cost of living. Almost a million more Puerto Ricans now live on the mainland than on the island.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
PSS HEAD START PROGRAM
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Telephone: (670) 664-3751/68 • Fax No: (670) 664-3760
Email address: www.cnmihdst@pticom.com

Head Start Policy Council

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 23 2013 at 9:30 a.m., Tanapag Head Start Resource Center, Tanapag, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes:
   a. March 28, 2013

II. Public Comments

III. Communication
1. From the State Board of Education
2. From the Office of Head Start

IV. Monthly Reports
1. Director
2. Managers
3. Interim Finance Director
4. HPC Standing Committees
5. Center Representatives

V. Old Business
1. Updates
   a. Program Mission, Vision & Philosophy

VI. New Business
1. Action Items
   a. SY 12-13 Self-Assessment Report Review and Approval
   b. SY 13-14 School Calendar
   c. SY 13-14 Transportation Waiver
   d. FY 13-14 Basic and T & TA Grant Application
2. Winter Child Outcomes Report

VII. Miscellaneous Matters

VIII. Executive Session[1]

IX. Next Meeting

X. Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Q. Celis at (670) 664-3761 or email address at candace.celis@cnmipss.org, several days notice is required.

/s/ Antonio Mesngon
Chairperson

[1] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Council may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Science & Technology

STUMP THE GEEKS

Where do deleted Gmail messages go?

By TYLER DUKES
THE NEWS & OBSERVER (RALEIGH, N.C.)

QUESTION: Some emails that are on Google seem to disappear when I delete them. They are not in the trash or spam. Frequently I need to return to a message and cannot find it. Where are they?—May S.

ANSWER: Any message you delete from your Gmail inbox is moved into the trash folder just in case you decide you need it later. But that grace period only lasts 30 days. After that, Gmail automatically deletes the message from your account for good.

The spam folder works a bit differently. Deleting a message marked as spam causes it to skip the trash folder altogether, so you have to be careful not to purge your account of useful emails that accidentally got caught up in Google's spam filter. That's easy to do, since Google gives you the option to delete all spam messages with a single click.

If you're having trouble locating deleted messages via search, it's important to note that by default, messages filed as trash don't show up in your search results. To reveal what you might have accidentally deleted (provided it hasn't passed the 30-day expiration date), type "in:anywhere" along with your search query. This tells Gmail to look in all folders—even in spam and trash.

If you're still seeing this problem, even with messages that aren't 30 days old, you should consider changing your password and taking other steps to secure your account (Google provides more details on that here: https://support.google.com/mail/answer/78353).

A symptom like this doesn't necessarily mean your account has been compromised, but it's always better to be safe than sorry.

■ ■ ■

Q: I have two desktop Macs, one purchased in 2003 and the other in 2006. That later one has developed bad pixels. When it first started, I went to the Apple store and was told there wasn't anything I could do for the computer because it was too old and it would cost too much to repair.

I asked why this would happen on the newer one when the older one had no such problem. They told me the screen was probably manufactured by a different supplier.

Even though the lines are on the desktop, I can still read my sites and emails. What can I expect if this continues?—Dorothy N., Raleigh, N.C.

A: Dead pixels on LCD screens are a frustrating problem that can range from a minor annoyance to a major impediment. That problem is amplified if your display is built into the CPU, as is the case with Apple's iMac line.

Although it's not a terribly common occurrence, pixel death is essentially a random electrical problem, and as the Apple technician seemed to indicate, it's often attributed to a manufacturing issue. There are also a number of solutions online for fixing stuck pixels, which display only red, green or blue. I can't speak to their efficacy though.

What you can expect in the future is difficult to predict, says Jason Childers, lead technician at the North Carolina computer repair shop Raleigh Geeks.

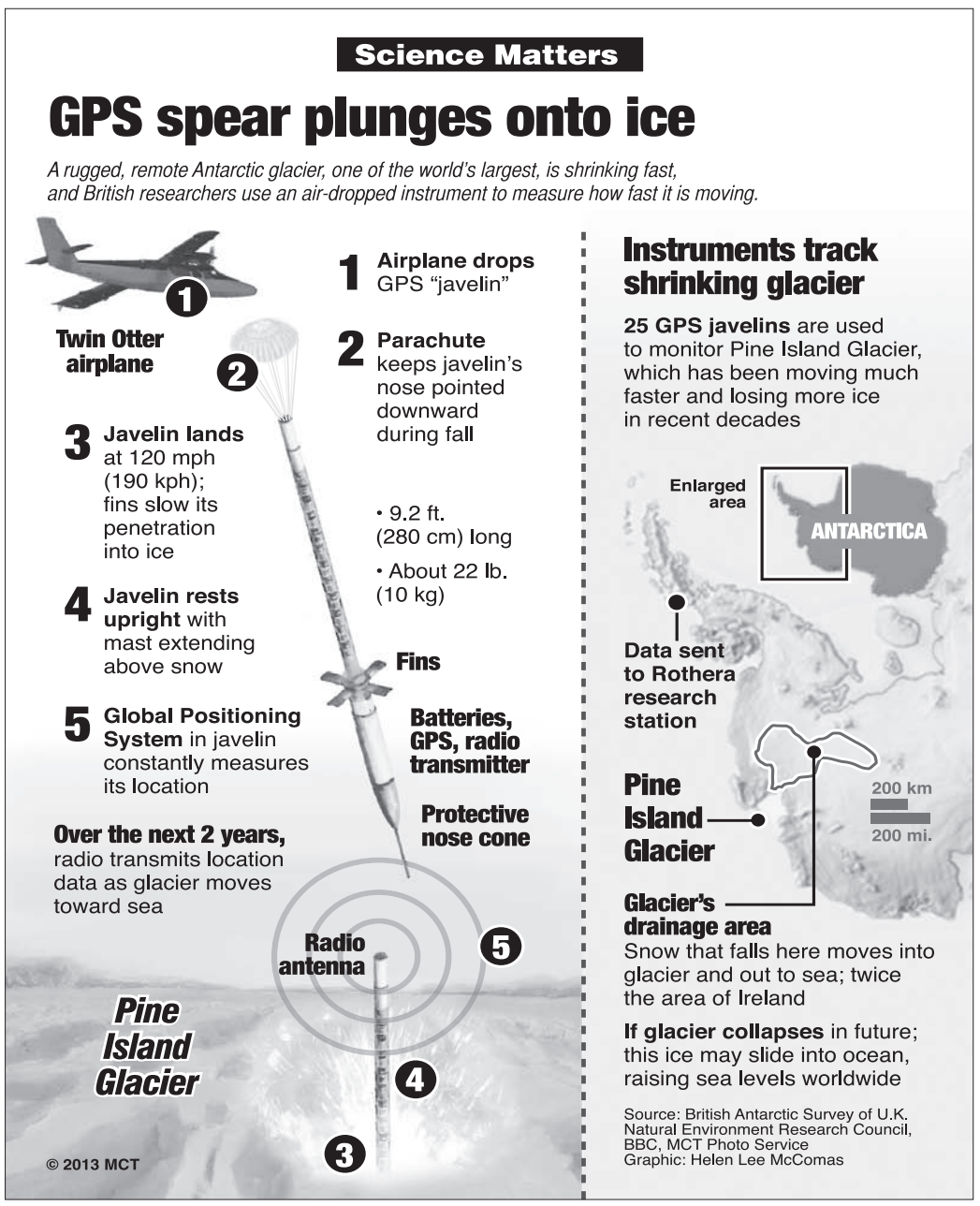
"You honestly never know," Childers said. "It could stay the way it is or it could get worse."

If things get really bad, it's possible to replace the LCD altogether. Raleigh Geeks does many such repairs for devices from smartphones to laptops, although Childers said these replacements are more common for screens that are physically damaged (dropped iPhones, for example).

But this can get expensive, and Childers said the price is hard to estimate unless he knows the specific part number.

Still, it may be end up being cheaper than a brand new desktop.

Send your high-tech question to stumpthegeeks@newsobserver.com. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. Individual replies are not given.


Science Matters
GPS spear plunges onto ice
A rugged, remote Antarctic glacier, one of the world's largest, is shrinking fast, and British researchers use an air-dropped instrument to measure how fast it is moving.
1 Airplane drops GPS "javelin"
Twin Otter airplane
2 Parachute keeps javelin's nose pointed downward during fall
3 Javelin lands at 120 mph (190 kph); fins slow its penetration into ice
4 Javelin rests upright with mast extending above snow
5 Global Positioning System in javelin constantly measures its location
Over the next 2 years, radio transmits location data as glacier moves toward sea
• 9.2 ft. (280 cm) long
• About 22 lb. (10 kg)
Fins
Batteries, GPS, radio transmitter
Protective nose cone
Radio antenna
Pine Island Glacier
Instruments track shrinking glacier
25 GPS javelins are used to monitor Pine Island Glacier, which has been moving much faster and losing more ice in recent decades
Enlarged area
ANTARCTICA
Data sent to Rothera research station
Pine Island Glacier
200 km
200 mi.
Glacier's drainage area
Snow that falls here moves into glacier and out to sea; twice the area of Ireland
If glacier collapses in future; this ice may slide into ocean, raising sea levels worldwide
Source: British Antarctic Survey of U.K. Natural Environment Research Council, BBC, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas
© 2013 MCT

Off the Wall

Judge holds self in contempt for phone

IONIA, Mich. (AP)—A Michigan judge whose smartphone disrupted a hearing in his own courtroom has held himself in contempt and paid $25 for the infraction.

Judge Raymond Voet has a posted policy at Ionia County 64A District Court stating that electronic devices causing a disturbance during court sessions will result in the owner being cited with contempt, the Sentinel-Standard of Ionia and MLive.com reported.

On Friday afternoon, during a prosecutor's closing argument as part of a jury trial, Voet's new smartphone began to emit sounds requesting phone voice commands. Voet said he thinks he bumped the phone, and the embarrassment likely left his face red.

"I'm guessing I bumped it. It started talking really loud, saying `I can't understand you. Say something like Mom,'" he said.

Voet

Voet has used a Blackberry mobile phone for years, and said he wasn't as familiar with the operation of the new touchscreen, Windows-based phone.

"That's an excuse, but I don't take those excuses from anyone else. I set the bar high, because cellphones are a distraction and there is very serious business going on," he said. "The courtroom is a special place in the community, and it needs more respect than that."

Over the years, the judge whose court is about 110 miles northwest of Detroit has taken phones away from police officers, attorneys, witnesses, spectators and friends. During a break in the trial, Voet held himself in contempt, fined himself and paid the fine.

"Judges are humans," Voet said. "They're not above the rules. I broke the rule and I have to live by it."

Lithuanian woman shares home with 3 puma cubs

KLAIPEDA, Lithuania (AP)—A Lithuanian woman says she has been raising three pumas in her three-room apartment after fearing for their lives at the local zoo.

Rasa Veliute, a 23-year-old volunteer at the zoo in Klaipeda, a Baltic Sea port town, says she took the cubs home four months ago after their mother began neglecting them.

The pumas—also known as mountain lions or cougars—are named Kipsas, Gipse and Kinde. Veliute says they eat a lot of chicken and get along well with her East European shepherd dog.

There is no Lithuanian law barring keeping the animals at home, and the zoo did not object to Veliute's actions.

AP
Rasa Veliute holds a four- month- old puma who lives in her apartment in Klaipeda, Lithuania, Friday, April 12, 2013.

But Veliute told reporters Friday that the pumas have grown fast and will likely return to the zoo this summer.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Pa. woman cited for calling 911 seeking divorce

GIRARD, Pa. (AP)—Police have cited a 42-year-old Pennsylvania woman for disorderly conduct after she called 911 requesting a divorce and police assistance to make her husband leave. Troopers say the woman called just after 1 a.m. Saturday asking that officers be sent to her home in Girard Township in northwestern Pennsylvania. Police say they explained to the woman, whom they are not identifying, that a divorce is a civil matter and that they could not make her husband leave the residence because no crime had been committed. Instead, police have cited the woman for disorderly conduct and misusing the Erie County 911 system.

Swallowed ring recovered by NH police

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)—Police say they've got the $3,200 engagement ring a New Hampshire allegedly swallowed during an attempted jewelry store theft. Authorities charged 52-year-old Ronald Perley with theft and falsifying physical evidence after they say X-rays showed the 14-karat white-gold ring with princess-cut diamonds inside him. WMUR-TV reports Manchester police had recovered the ring as of Saturday. Perley allegedly went into Bellman's Jewelers on Thursday asking about engagement rings. Workers said he grabbed a ring then swallowed it after being confronted. Police say surveillance footage shows Perley taking the ring and putting his hand to his mouth. Perley was being held on $50,000 bail. It's not clear if he has an attorney.

Police: Upstate NY man's bad idea results in crash

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. (AP)—It turns out coasting an SUV with no brakes downhill to a scrap yard isn't a good idea after all. Police say a 28-year-old man found that out Tuesday evening when he attempted to drive an SUV to a scrap yard in Jamestown, 60 miles south of Buffalo. Officers tell The Post-Journal of Jamestown that the man told them he had disconnected the battery before coasting down a hill to get to a nearby scrap yard. Police say he also told them the 1995 Chevrolet Tahoe had no brakes. Officials say he was unable to stop at an intersection and collided with another vehicle. He and the other driver suffered minor injuries.

Cops: Men toss dead groundhog, grouse into Pa. bar

BROOKVILLE, Pa. (AP)—Police in one western Pennsylvania town are investigating a case of bar kill: a groundhog and a grouse, both dead, tossed into a tavern by unsatisfied customers. The (Dubois) Courier-Express reports that the animals were tossed into Bill's Bar hours apart Sunday in Brookville, about 70 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. Brookville police Chief Ken Dworek tells The Associated Press that the suspects are an underage man who was refused service at the bar and another who was turned away because of "an alcohol problem." The chief says such use of animals is a fairly common problem in Brookville. He says, for example, "a guy will get in an argument and put a dead squirrel on his girlfriend's doorknob, that kind of thing."

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$2.50	Additional for 3D Shows

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Oblivion
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:50
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:50
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Monday through Thursday 4:20 7:20
Cast: Tom Cruise, Olga Kurylenko, Morgan Freeman
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Scary Movie 5
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:45
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Monday through Thursday 4:10 7:10
Cast: Charlie Sheen, Lindsay Lohan, Ashley Tisdale
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG 13

The Call
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Monday through Thursday 4:05 7:05
Cast: Halle Berry, Evie Thompson, Abigail Breslin
Genre: Comedy • Rated R

Jurassic Park 3D
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Monday through Thursday 4:00 7:00
Cast: Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D
Friday 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:25 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:25 7:25
Monday through Thursday 7:25
Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 2D
Friday through Thursday 4:25

The Croods 3D
Friday 7:15
Saturday 1:15 7:15
Sunday 1:15 7:15
Monday through Thursday 7:15
Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds
Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG

The Croods 2D
Friday & Saturday 4:15 9:30
Sunday through Thursday 4:15

Olympus Has Fallen
Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Monday through Thursday 4:30 7:30
Cast: Gerard Butler, Morgan Freeman, Aaron Eckhart
Genre: Action • Rated R

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Life & Style

Media frenzy on marathon investigation

AP

Officials in tactical gear stand guard behind a Boston Police Department barricade near the site of the Boston Marathon explosions, Wednesday, April 17, 2013, in Boston.

NEW YORK (AP)—For about an hour Wednesday afternoon, people could flip through different television channels and hear completely different accounts of the investigation into the Boston Marathon explosions: Some news organizations reported the arrest of a suspect and then took those claims back.

CNN and the Fox News Channel reported that a suspect in Monday's bombing had been arrested. The Associated Press and the Boston Globe said a suspect had been taken into custody. Within an hour, the FBI denied that a suspect had been captured, leading the three news organizations that had reported the arrest to back down from those claims.

The AP, while reporting the federal denial, said that its original source was standing by its claim that a suspect had been taken into custody. The news cooperative said its source was a law enforcement official speaking on condition of anonymity. By nightfall, with no evidence that anyone was in custody, the original source was unable to further explain what was going on.

ABC, CBS and NBC all broke into their regular programming to report progress in the case, but did not say there was an arrest or someone brought into custody.

The frantic afternoon presented another example of news organizations being embarrassed by a race to report information under intense competitive pressure. It was reminiscent of the day last year that the Supreme Court handed down its decision on President Obama's health care plan, when both CNN and Fox initially got the ruling wrong in their haste to report it.

In Wednesday's scenario, CNN's John King had jumped out early around lunchtime, saying that a department store's surveillance camera had helped law enforcement spot a person dropping a container on the street that was believed to be the second of two bombs that detonated near the race's finish line.

King reported at 1:45 p.m. that an arrest had been made. The Globe tweeted the same thing at 1:53, without attribution. Six minutes later the Globe sent out a second tweet, saying CNN was the source of its arrest report. Fox News Channel's Megyn Kelly said at 1:55 that the network had been told of an arrest.

The Associated Press sent out a NewsAlert at 1:41 p.m. saying that an arrest was imminent. At 2:02, the AP said a suspect had been taken into custody, but did not say there was an arrest. The Globe also followed with its own report that a suspect was in custody, citing an unnamed official familiar with the investigation.

The three biggest broadcast networks jumped into the story with cautious reports of progress within five minutes of each other shortly before 2 p.m. NBC reporter Pete Williams was insistent that news organizations reporting an arrest had jumped the gun.

"From the beginning of this, this has been the hallmark of this story—information going in totally different directions coming from normally very reliable sources," Williams said. "We can't just flip a coin on this."

At 2:15 on MSNBC, Williams said that "at the end of the day, somebody is going to be right, because every news organization is reporting something different."

Library of Congress wins special Grammy Award

WASHINGTON (AP)—The music industry honored the Library of Congress with a special Grammy Award on Wednesday night for its work over the past decade to preserve historic audio recordings, along with honors for Jennifer Hudson.

The Recording Academy presented its Grammys on the Hill Award to the library at an event in Washington, featuring appearances by producer Clive Davis, singer Yolanda Adams and others. The group honored Hudson with a Recording Artist Coalition Award for her charity work and saluted York Community High School near Chicago for its outstanding music program.

Hudson said being recognized for her charitable work stands apart from all her other awards.

"It makes it the most prestigious award to be acknowledged for trying to make a difference," she told The Associated Press. "It's OK to be a celebrity, but the things that matter are when you can change someone's life or help someone."

Librarian of Congress James Billington said he was delighted that the library's preservation work was being honored—but he never expected to win any kind of Grammy.

"I can't even carry a tune, so the thought that I'm being awarded a Grammy will amaze everyone who moves slightly away from me whenever I start singing," he told The Associated Press.

Billington said preservation of the nation's cultural heritage is one of the most neglected issues.

"We are kind of a throwaway society," he said. "We're tremendous at creating things in this country with our freedoms and our richness and variety of forms of cultural expression, but we seem to think things will last forever."

Songwriter Kara DioGuardi said the library's preservation work is critical.

"These are songs that are going to be played for generations to come," she said.

Recording Academy President Neil Portnow said hundreds of musicians will visit Capitol Hill on Thursday to urge lawmakers to protect copyrights for the creators of music and ensure they get paid for their work in the digital age.

California Republican Rep. Kevin McCarthy, the House majority whip, joined Democratic Rep. Steny Hoyer to show support Wednesday night. The guiding premise for intellectual property protections, Hoyer said, is "thou shalt not steal." The Grammys on the Hill Awards are meant to connect the music industry with the world of policy and politics in Washington.

Daryl Friedman, the Recording Academy's chief lobbyist in Washington, said the library's National Recording Registry goes beyond its practical purpose of ensuring that recordings are preserved for generations to come.

"It raises the profile of great American recordings from all genres, even spoken word, great speeches, great music," he said.

The Grammy Foundation pushed for legislation in Congress more than 10 years ago to create the preservation program at the library. So far, 375 audio recordings have been preserved through the program for their historic, artistic or cultural significance. This year's inductees include Simon and Garfunkel's album "Sounds of Silence" and Chubby Checker's dance hit "The Twist."

McCartney lends voice to anti-gun violence effort

NEW YORK (AP)—Paul McCartney is adding his voice to Tony Bennett's campaign against gun violence.

The former Beatle recorded a voice message that's part of a text-to-call operation Wednesday for Bennett's Voices Against Violence campaign. McCartney and others are encouraging Americans to send a text, which will lead to the singer's message and connect the caller to their local Senate office after providing their zip code.

The Senate will vote Wednesday on a proposal to expand background checks, the linchpin of the effort to curb gun violence. In December, 20 children and six aides were shot and killed at a Newtown, Conn., elementary school, propelling gun violence into a national issue. Families of the Newtown victims have been lobbying lawmakers.

Other celebrities supporting include Alec Baldwin, Gloria Estefan, Josh Groban and Juanes.

Vergara relieved son was home for Boston bombing

NEW YORK (AP)—Like most mothers, Sofia Vergara was worried after hearing about the bombings at the Boston Marathon. But she was also relieved that her son, Manolo, who attends school in Boston, was not there on Monday when the attack took place.

Three people were killed and more than 170 injured when two pressure cookers bombs went off near the finish line.

"He just went back to Boston last night because he had class today. But he was here when the tragedy happened," Vergara told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

"Thank God he was not there or I would have become crazy," the actress said. "I know for a lot of mothers it was a difficult time because the phone lines were so busy. I'm sure that for all the hours and minutes—whatever that lasted—I'm sure it was horrible."

And relief soon turned to worry about his return. "Last night it was terrible for me. I told him please not to go into public places. Just go to class and stay in his apartment and try not to be outside," she said.

But then she added: "Hopefully, nothing is going to happen. Hopefully, this was just one horrible thing, and they're going to catch this guy and it's going to stop."

AP

Columbian actress Sofia Vergara poses for a portrait, on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 in New York.

Vergara spoke of the incident while promoting a campaign for hypothyroidism awareness. The actress was diagnosed with thyroid cancer in 2000, and continues to take medication for treatment.

The "Modern Family" actress also addressed her plans to have another child, at some point. For now, she's freezing her eggs. "I'm 40 years old and things don't happen that natural anymore, so we want to make sure when we're ready—my boyfriend is three years younger than me and has no kids—I wanted to take advantage of science."

But the actress says she has no timetable for a new addition to the family.

"We would like to buy a house. We are also planning to eventually get married. I have so much work this year. So definitely this year it's not going to happen," she said.

Vergara is currently on hiatus from "Modern Family," but has several films coming out, including a starring role in the Robert Rodriguez thriller, "Machete Kills."

Martin Short could be back on TV in new sitcom

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Martin Short could be back in the weekly TV business with his former "Saturday Night Live" boss, Lorne Michaels.

Short says he's waiting to hear whether NBC will pick up a comedy pilot produced by Michaels as a series next season.

The untitled sitcom stars "SNL" writer John Mulaney and is loosely based on Mulaney's life.

Short plays a quiz show host who uses jokes written by Mulaney's character.

The former "SNL" cast member says Elliott Gould is also in the cast.

NBC and other networks will announce their lineups for 2013-14 season next month. Short and Michaels were paired Tuesday to discuss Michaels' career at a Hollywood Radio & Television Society event in Beverly Hills.

Tracy Morgan to host Billboard Music Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Musicians beware: Tracy Morgan will host the Billboard Music Awards.

Billboard announced Wednesday that the 44-year-old will host the awards show on May 19 from the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

Morgan

The former "Saturday Night Live" and "30 Rock" cast member says in a statement that he's honored to host the show.

Taylor Swift, Justin Bieber, Bruno Mars and Miguel will perform at the awards show. Prince will receive the icon award and will also hit the stage.

Morgan adds in his statement: "And how can you say no when Prince is going to be there!"

The Billboard Music Awards will air live on ABC at 8 p.m. Eastern.

Quinto trusts his instincts for good causes, Spock

NEW YORK (AP)—Zachary Quinto might be headed into other worldly places this summer in "Star Trek Into Darkness," but he says a social issue that's near and dear to him is taking care of the earth.

He turns off the water when he is brushing his teeth and shaving, and unplugs all his chargers when they are not in use. It's the little things that are going to add up, he said in a phone interview.

Quinto is serving with Alanis Morissette as Kiehl's Earth Day ambassadors in the beauty brand's fifth year working with Recycle Across America. The effort aims to standardize recycling labels and collect empty grooming-product jars, and Quinto designed a limited-edition label for facial cream that serves as a fundraiser.

"I felt inspired by this organization. It's trying to make a tangible difference. Sometimes part of the challenge of getting involved in a cause is when it's abstract," Quinto said.

AP

Zachary Quinto, left, and Chris Pine, cast members in the forthcoming film "Star Trek Into Darkness," share a laugh as they answer questions about the film onstage at CinemaCon 2013's Opening Night Presentation from Paramount Pictures at Caesars Palace on Tuesday, April 15, 2013 in Las Vegas.

Not that charities and causes aren't asking. Quinto, also a star of TV's "Heroes," said he can feel his celebrity on the rise in the number of requests he's getting to use his name and attend events. For him, though, the connection has to make sense, he said, ticking off elder care, animal welfare and Hurricane Sandy recovery as other issues that he supports. "I try to be judicious and I don't want to be ubiquitous," he said.

If not ubiquitous, Qunto will become a lot more familiar in the coming months. The J.J. Abrams interpretation of "Star Trek" already has the franchise's fans buzzing—and they aren't shy about giving their opinion to Quinto.

"It's exciting, and there's a lot of anticipation," he said. "I hope it lives up to people's expectations."

He said "Star Trek" breeds some of Hollywood's most loyal fans, and for the most part the diehards have been "pretty respectful and supportive."

Still, he said he has to play Mr. Spock based on his gut and not how the fans might write the role. "I can't open myself up to other people's opinions unless they're people I know and trust their opinions."

The harder husband works, the more his wife cheats

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 47-year-old male, married for 26 years. I am hopelessly in love with my wife and still see her as the most beautiful woman in the world.

I have always been self-employed and have sometimes been at the extremes of feast or famine. During the bad times, I often worked 110-plus-hour weeks to save the ship.

Each time things have gotten really bad, my wife has had an affair to make up for the time, money and attention I can't provide her. I found out about her latest affair (her third) when I found a secret cellphone in her purse. For the last eight months, when she visited our daughter at college, she would check into a hotel with her lover.

I feel responsible for failing to meet her needs. She doesn't want a divorce, but admits she doubts she will ever fully stop dating, and says the effort she puts into deceiving me is proof she loves me and doesn't want to hurt my feelings.

I am amazed at the number of men willing to have sex with a married woman. My heart is broken, and I feel like a failure. Am I a fool to keep fighting for her?

HOPELESSLY IN LOVE

DEAR HOPELESSLY IN LOVE: I hope you realize that as "beautiful" as your wife may be, your relationship with her isn't a healthy one. Please go online and look up the definition of the word "codependency."

If your wife loved you, she would prove it by doing everything in her power to HELP you through the rough periods, including finding a job to help with the bills, not sneaking around with other men. That she would claim her deceit is "proof of her love," and that you would believe her, is amazing.

This woman has shown no remorse; she has told you she doesn't plan to be faithful in the future. Do not let her hoodwink you into believing her infidelity is your fault because you worked yourself nearly into a physical collapse trying to save your business and provide for her. If you accept that, it WOULD be foolish.

DEAR ABBY: What is proper etiquette for someone who takes pictures at a funeral?

I am a recent widow who received a package from an out-of-town relative. In it were several envelopes for my family. One of them was for my sister, who lives 40 miles away. I gave my sister a call and told her it looked like it contained a stack of pictures. She said I should go ahead and open it.

Inside were photos taken at my husband's funeral—pictures of the funeral home, inside the church, the casket, and some of me and my daughter sitting at the gravesite. Abby, it was like going to the funeral all over again! The latter were particularly disturbing.

To me, it felt like voyeurism. Why would someone take pictures of such a sad event? I hope you print this and tell me and others what your opinion is so they may heed your advice—particularly my in-laws.

GRIEVING WIDOW IN INDIANA

DEAR GRIEVING: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your husband. I can only imagine the shock you experienced when you saw the photos. No one should take pictures at funerals without first having received permission from the immediate survivors such as the widow, widower or children.

That said, the practice is not as uncommon as you might think. After a period of time, family members have been known to find comfort in having them. Short of asking your permission, your trauma could have been avoided had the relative who sent the pictures thought to label the envelopes or include a note explaining what was inside them. That way, you wouldn't have had to view them until you were ready—if ever—and were prepared emotionally.

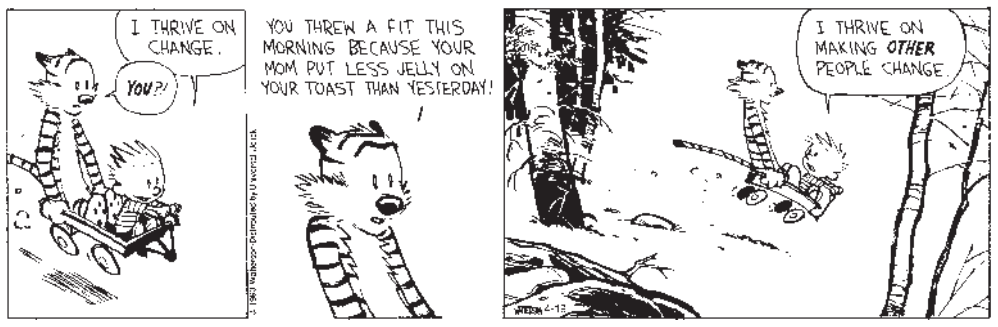
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

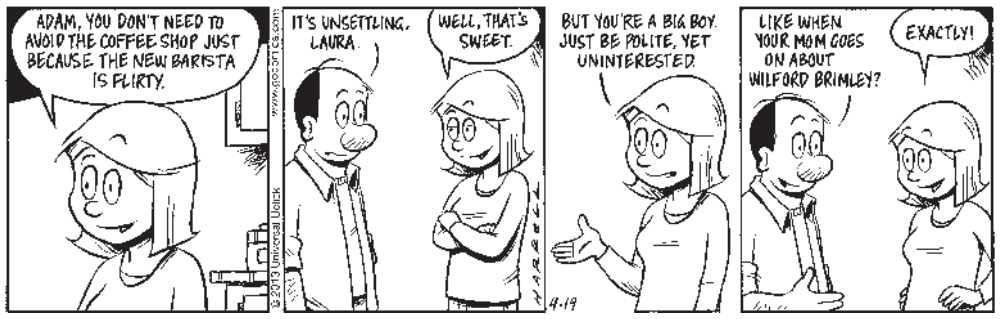

I THRIVE ON CHANGE.
YOU?!
YOU THREW A FIT THIS MORNING BECAUSE YOUR MOM PUT LESS JELLY ON YOUR TOAST THAN YESTERDAY!
I THRIVE ON MAKING OTHER PEOPLE CHANGE

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

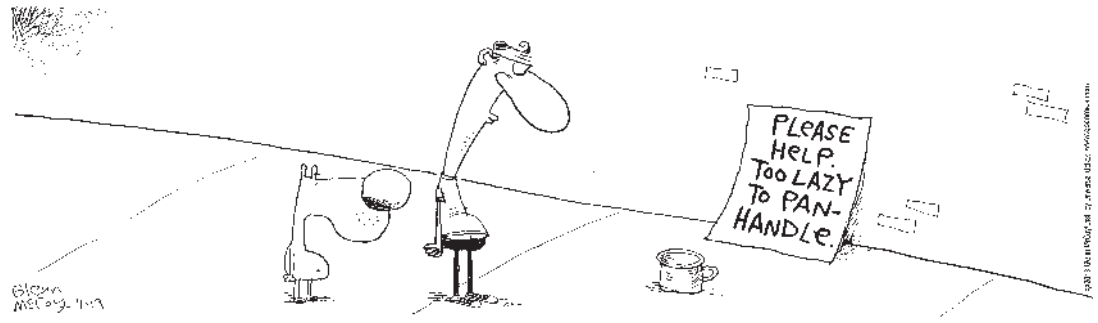
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM, YOU DON'T NEED TO AVOID THE COFFEE SHOP JUST BECAUSE THE NEW BARISTA IS FLIRTY.
IT'S UNSETTLING, LAURA.
WELL, THAT'S SWEET.
BUT YOU'RE A BIG BOY. JUST BE POLITE, YET UNINTERESTED.
LIKE WHEN YOUR MOM GOES ON ABOUT WILFORD BRIMLEY?
EXACTLY!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

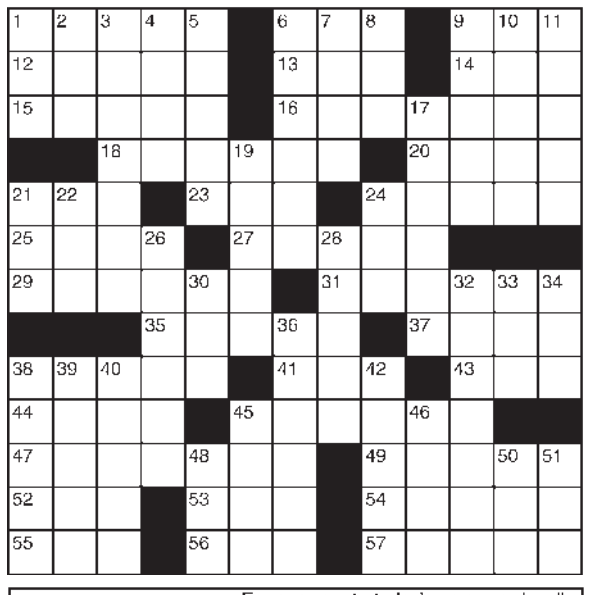
ACROSS
1 Birth-related
6 Sphere
9 "Great!"
12 React to reveille
13 Spelling contest
14 "— not choose to run"
15 Bottled spirit?
16 Madison Avenue music
18 Eden, for one
20 Agts.
21 Crony
23 Moment
24 Nuts
25 The same, in bibliographies
27 Primly self-restrained
29 Hide and —
31 Fails to
35 Buck-wheat porridge
37 Catastrophic
38 Wit
41 Lubricant
43 Tandoor-baked bread
44 Hibernia
45 In the course of
47 Rubs elbows
49 Light-weight wood
52 Light touch
53 Lemieux milieu
54 Tools for duels
55 Bashful
56 Forerunner of Windows
57 Endures

DOWN
1 Run-down horse
2 Exist
3 Prickly sensations
4 One side of the Urals
5 Villainous looks
6 Thing
7 Check
8 Stein or Stiller
9 — mignon
10 Skilled
11 Domineering
17 Marked a report card
19 Classroom array
21 Glutton
22 Big bother
24 Life story, for short
26 Vietnam river
28 Legendary firefighter Red
30 Listener
32 $1 bills
33 2nd Amdt. proponents
34 X rating?
36 "Monopoly" buys
38 Jute fibers
39 Dickens' Mr. Heep
40 Like some mouthwashes and toothpastes
42 Written slander
45 Art —
46 California wine valley
48 Cover
50 Prepared
51 Balaam's carrier

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	E	G	O	■	D	O	H	■	E	D	A	M
C	A	M	P	■	O	N	E	■	V	O	L	E
A	S	A	P	■	W	A	R	■	E	W	A	N
R	E	N	O	W	N	■	B	O	N	N	E	T
■	■	■	S	E	W	■	■	A	S	S	■	■
B	A	D	E	■	A	N	D	R	O	I	D	S
A	G	O	■	■	S	R	O	■	■	Z	I	P
H	A	W	K	S	H	A	W	■	D	E	N	Y
■	■	N	E	D	■	■	N	O	R	■	■	■
T	E	T	R	I	S	■	B	R	I	D	A	L
F	R	I	N	■	A	W	F	■	P	I	N	A
M	I	M	E	■	P	E	A	■	P	R	O	P
P	E	E	L	■	S	E	T	■	Y	E	N	S

Yesterday's answer 4-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hayden Christensen, 32; Kate Hudson, 34; James Franco, 35; Ashley Judd, 45

Happy Birthday: Don't fold under pressure. Follow through with your plans. Make the changes that suit you instead of trying to do what someone else is demanding. Reconnect with the people who have been supportive in the past and it will help build your confidence and give you a better indication of what you should and could do now. Your numbers are 7, 12, 15, 22, 24, 31, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Plan to do something exciting or challenging. Getting out and networking or incorporating physical activity into your day will result in new friendships that can help you get ahead personally and professionally. Live in the moment. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Tie up loose ends. Take care of domestic matters quickly or you will be faced with complaints. Rethink your work strategy and how you can become more efficient and unique. Love is highlighted. Plan a romantic evening. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Listen to suggestions, but consider the motives behind what's being proposed. The adjustments or reforms you feel strongly about must be voiced in order to counter anyone you feel is not being fair. Remember, charity begins at home. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Choose your words carefully. You will end up in a dispute if you aren't willing to compromise. Look at the big picture and make adjustments that will allow you to keep moving forward. Love and romance are in the stars. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your ideas are stellar and the people you approach will help turn your plans into a reality. Communication executed with charm, not pressure, is all it will take to get your way. Don't neglect a personal promise or you will face domestic problems. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Put more emphasis on pleasure and engaging in a little fun with colleagues or close friends. How you get along with others will make a difference to the outcome of a project or concern you have. Make a personal change that boosts your confidence. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A joint venture will grab your attention. Go over all the fine details and you will reap the rewards. A last-minute change of plans will end up working in your favor. Don't fight the inevitable; make it work for you. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Keep your emotions in check, especially when dealing with situations that can alter your status or reputation. Focus more on home and relationships and how you can make little improvements that will add to your comfort and enhance your connections. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Altering your living arrangements will improve your outlook and attitude. Physical activity will be exhilarating and rewarding. A partnership will turn out to be beneficial as long as you both deliver what you promise. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Express caution when discussing important issues with friends, relatives or people in your community. You will be misinterpreted if you don't specify what you want. Stick close to home and take care of domestic issues and the ones you love. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Share your interests with people you have something in common with and a good partnership will develop. Your inventive outlook will bring about solutions to existing problems. Express the way you feel and positive changes will take place. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Get back to activities you used to enjoy. Physical, mental and creative outlets will help ease stress and set you on a journey that will be enlightening and entertaining. A new friendship will turn into a worthwhile partnership. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are witty, intelligent and bold. You are determined and innovative.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8			1	6				2
	9	3			5	6	4	
		4					1	
	8						2	
	5					3		
	2	1	3			7	5	
6				8	9			4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	5	3	6	8	1	9	2	4
6	9	2	7	4	3	1	8	5
1	8	4	5	2	9	6	3	7
2	6	7	1	3	5	4	9	8
3	1	8	9	7	4	2	5	6
9	4	5	8	6	2	3	7	1
8	7	9	3	1	6	5	4	2
5	2	1	4	9	8	7	6	3
4	3	6	2	5	7	8	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/18

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LONG HAIR IS BEAUTIFUL. Solution: 8 letters

B	N	L	F	H	S	I	L	Y	T	S	B	U	N	S
L	M	O	C	L	I	P	L	S	T	R	A	N	D	S
O	G	C	I	D	A	R	K	L	U	U	P	D	O	W
N	N	K	T	T	U	R	A	N	L	O	H	A	S	I
D	O	S	N	C	A	Y	E	A	W	I	S	E	S	S
E	L	T	E	A	E	T	R	E	S	N	I	G	E	H
C	I	R	C	R	T	U	R	K	O	R	R	N	L	C
N	A	A	S	E	T	S	C	I	O	N	U	I	E	N
E	T	I	S	A	N	I	S	S	L	T	O	R	M	U
D	Y	G	N	O	T	N	S	T	A	F	N	F	I	R
I	N	H	I	S	E	E	E	R	U	T	X	E	T	C
F	O	T	P	T	C	O	L	O	R	E	N	I	H	S
N	P	O	X	C	B	O	U	N	C	I	N	G	I	N
O	H	E	A	L	T	H	Y	G	L	O	W	I	N	G
C	E	L	E	B	R	I	T	I	E	S	I	L	K	Y

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Yesterday's Answer: Celebrate

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- Adhere to all school policies and procedures
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Qualifications
- High School graduate
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- Willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school & in complete agreement with the doctrine & policy of Marianas Baptist Church
- Adhere to all school policies and procedures

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - Academy
Qualifications
- Holder of Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy or its equivalent
- At least 5 years experience in record keeping, financial management and bookkeeping
- Proficient in Microsoft computer operation and maintenance
- With good understanding of local and federal tax and educational laws
- With excellent interpersonal communication skills to handle school related tasks
- Willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school
- Adhere to all school policies and procedures

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – Church
Qualifications
- With Christian education course & understand the ministry of the Sunday school.
- At least 2 years experience in record keeping & correspondence of the church.
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Lakers hold off Rockets, take West's 7th seed

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Dwight Howard had a simple message for the Lakers after Chandler Parsons' 34-foot, line-drive 3-pointer at the regulation buzzer added five more minutes to the final game of Los Angeles' already exhausting regular season.

Nothing has been easy for the Lakers all year long, Howard told his teammates. Why should the finale be any different?

With five more minutes of perseverance, the Lakers ended up with quite a reward. After getting up Wednesday morning with no guarantee their season wouldn't end that night, they surged into the seventh playoff spot in the West with a 99-95 overtime victory over the Houston Rockets.

Steve Blake scored 24 points and Pau Gasol added his seventh career triple-double for the Lakers (45-37), who only clinched a postseason berth about 10 minutes before tipoff. Despite Parsons' improbable tying basket, Los Angeles won again without Kobe Bryant and Steve Nash, earning a first-round date with second-seeded San Antonio.

"I'm proud of the whole team and the way they stepped up at the end of the year," said Blake, who added seven assists and seven rebounds to cap his second impressive game in Bryant's absence. "We definitely expected more at the beginning of the year, but we're proud we're here. ... I couldn't believe it when a couple of days ago somebody said we even had a chance to be in the seventh spot, and now we're there."

Gasol had 17 points, 20 rebounds and 11 assists in his second triple-double in three games for the Lakers, who avoided the embarrassment of missing the playoffs for just the second time in Bryant's 17-year career.

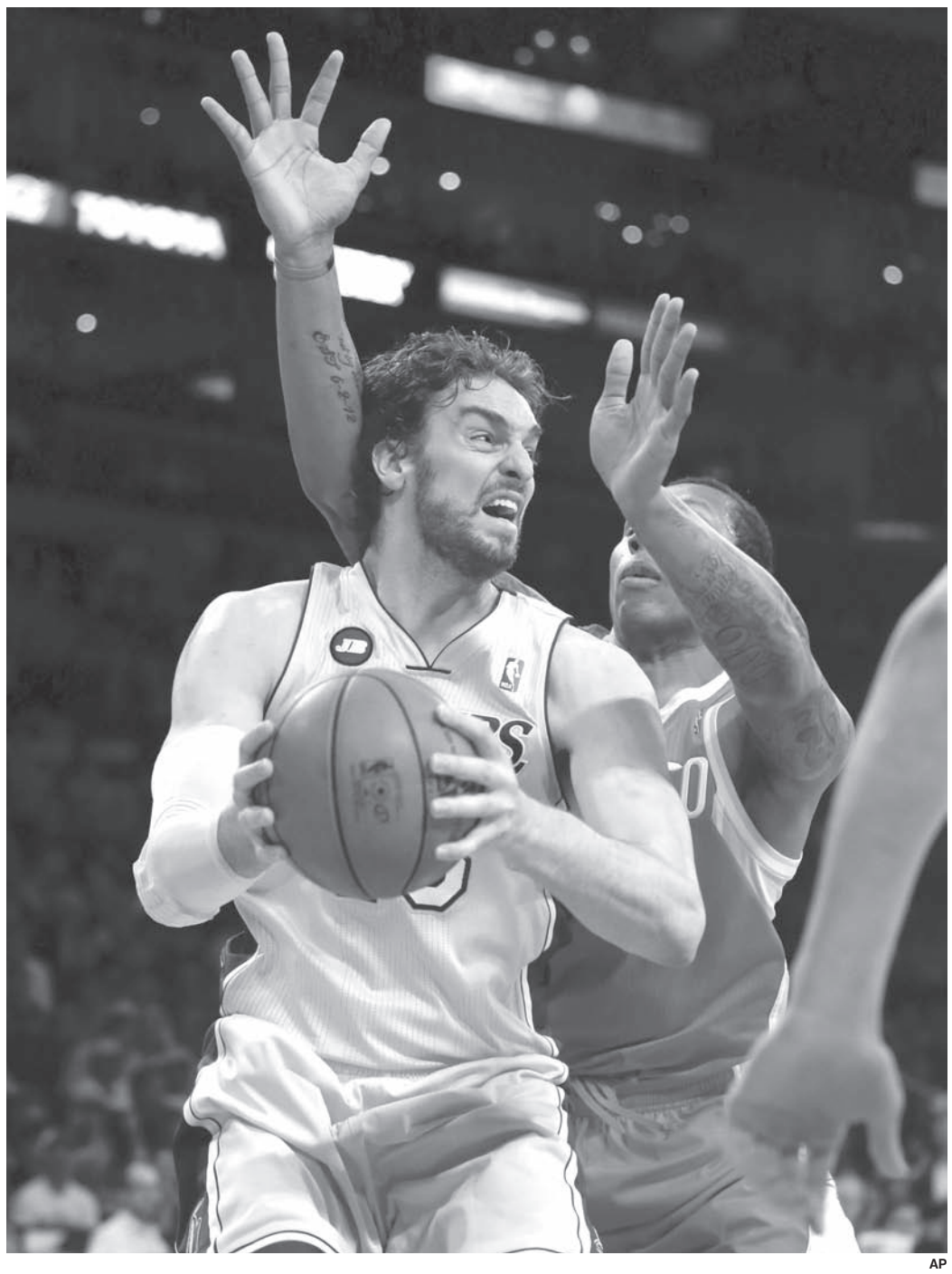
Howard had 16 points and 18 rebounds for the Lakers, and the All-Star center blocked James Harden's shot in the final seconds of overtime to finish up the Lakers' fifth straight win, their eighth in nine games.

"From where we were 20 or 30 games ago, a seven (seed) is pretty good," coach Mike D'Antoni said. "We shouldn't have been in that spot in the first place, but it's our fault."

Antawn Jamison added 16 points as the Lakers won their second straight without Bryant, who tore his Achilles tendon last Friday and watched another game from his home in Orange County. Nash hasn't played in eight games with a hamstring injury, but the Lakers finished the regular season with a gritty comeback win despite Chandler's heroics.

"We've fought through so much adversity already," Gasol said. "We knew we could handle a little more."

Parsons hit a tying 3-pointer from three steps behind the line at the regulation buzzer for the Rockets (45-37), who will face top-seeded Oklahoma City after losing four of six to end the regular season.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers' Pau Gasol, center, of Spain, is defended by Houston Rockets' Greg Smith during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Wednesday, April 17, 2013.

Harden scored 30 points and Parsons had 23 for the Rockets, who already knew they were back in the postseason after a three-year absence, but could have ended up in three seedings depending on Wednesday's results. Houston had a shot at the No. 6 spot before Golden State beat Portland earlier, but Los Angeles holds the tiebreaker on the Rockets.

Warriors 99, Trail Blazers 88

In Portland, Ore., Stephen Curry set a NBA single-season record for 3-pointers with 272 and Golden State defeated Portland in the teams' season finale.

It was the 13th straight loss for the Blazers, equaling the franchise record set in the 1971-72 season.

Curry surpassed Ray Allen's single-season 3-point total of 269 set in 2005-06. Needing two for the record, Curry opened the game with two straight misses from beyond the arc, but hit his first midway through the first quarter before making the record-breaker with 6:49 to go in the second.

Grizzlies 86, Jazz 70

In Memphis, Tenn., Zach Randolph had 25 points and 19 rebounds and Memphis ended Utah's playoff hopes.

The Grizzlies' victory meant the Los Angeles Lakers were assured of making the playoffs even before their late game against the Houston Rockets.

Mike Conley finished with 14 points for Memphis, which won its second straight and fifth in the past six. Darrell Arthur finished with 11 points for the Grizzlies, who took the West's fifth seed and will facec the Los Angeles Clippers in the first round.

Bulls 95, Wizards 92

In Chicago, Carlos Boozer had 19 points and 15 rebounds to help the Bulls clinch the fifth seed in the Eastern Conference with a win over the Wizards in the regular-season finale.

Kirk Hinrich added 18 points and Nazr Mohammed had a season-high 17 for the Bulls, who will face the Brooklyn Nets in the opening round of the playoffs.

Heat 105, Magic 93

In Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 21 points and handed out 10 assists, Mike Miller added 21 points and the Miami Heat wrapped up the regular season with a win over the Magic.

The Heat (66-16) became the 14th team in NBA history to finish with a winning percentage over .800, and did so with LeBron James away from the team for the day while tending to a personal matter.

Orlando finished with the NBA's worst record, 20-62.

Knicks 98, Hawks 92

In New York, Carmelo Anthony won the scoring title without playing, and the Atlanta Hawks lost their chance to move up in the East standings.

Chris Copeland scored 33 points on a night that belonged to the benches, and the Knicks wrapped up their winningest season in 16 years by beating the Hawks.

Nets 103, Pistons 99

In New York, Brook Lopez scored 20 points and reserve Andray Blatche added 15 as the playoff-bound Nets held off the Pistons.

Kris Humphries had 11 points and Joe Johnson added 10 for Brooklyn, winners of two straight. The Nets wrapped up their first regular season after leaving New Jersey and will open their first playoff series in six years at home against the Chicago Bulls on Saturday.

Timberwolves 108, Spurs 95

In San Antonio, Derrick Williams had 21 points to help the Timberwolves beat the Spurs, ending a 16-game losing streak at San Antonio.

Chase Budinger added 15 points and Greg Stiemsma and Ricky Rubio had 12 points apiece for Minnesota, won on the Spurs' home court for the first time since Jan. 14, 2004.

Raptors 114, Celtics 90

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan scored 24 points, Rudy Gay had 19 points and nine rebounds, and the Toronto Raptors routed the Boston Celtics, finishing their season with five straight wins.

Jonas Valanciunas scored 18 points, Alan Anderson had 16 and Kyle Lowry had nine points and eight assists as the Raptors matched their longest winning streak of the season.

Bucks 95, Thunder 89

In Oklahoma City, rookie John Henson scored a career-high 28 points and grabbed 16 rebounds, Brandon Jennings had 17 points and the Bucks beat the Thunder in a regular-season finale lacking any postseason implications.

Needing to score 70 points to surpass New York's Carmelo Anthony, Kevin Durant conceded the NBA scoring title and joined starting center Kendrick Perkins and key reserves Kevin Martin and Nick Collison in suits on the Thunder bench.

Mavericks 99, Hornets 87

In Dallas, Darren Collison scored 25 points, Dirk Nowitzki added 16 and the Dallas Mavericks finished their worst season in 13 years on a winning note, beating New Orleans in its final game as the Hornets.

The Mavericks (41-41) avoided their first losing record since going 40-42 in 1999-2000 — also the last time they missed the playoffs.

Bobcats 105, Cavaliers 98

In Charlotte, N.C., Kemba Walker had 24 points and seven assists, and the Charlotte Bobcats defeated the Cavaliers to avoid finishing in the NBA cellar for a second consecutive season.

The Bobcats (21-61) finished one game ahead of the Orlando Magic, who lost their season finale to the Miami Heat.

Josh McRoberts added 20 points and eight rebounds as the Bobcats closed the season with three straight wins, matching a season high.

Gerald Henderson added 15 points.

Kyrie Irving had 24 points and 10 assists for the Cavaliers, who finished with the third-worst record in the league (24-58) after losing 16 of their last 18 games, including their last six.

With the win the Bobcats became the first team in NBA history to triple their win total from the previous season.

Charlotte finished last year's lockout-shortened season 7-59 and its .106 winning percentage was the worst ever.

76ers 105, Pacers 95

In Indianapolis, Dorell Wright scored 23 points and Evan Turner added 16, leading Philadelphia to a victory over shorthanded Indiana in what was likely Doug Collins' final game as the 76ers coach.

The organization has already scheduled morning news conferences with the managing owner and Collins, who spent almost the entire game glued to his seat and spoke mostly with a hand covering his mouth.

Philadelphia (34-48) finished the season by winning three of its final four games but still out of the playoffs.

The Pacers (49-31) were led by Gerald Green who had a career-high 34 points. Lance Stephenson had 12 points, but the Pacers again failed to win their 50th game and head into the postseason with five losses in their last six games. Indiana rested four starters — Paul George, George Hill, Roy Hibbert and David West.

Nuggets 118, Suns 98

In Denver, the Denver Nuggets secured the third seed in the Western Conference playoffs by routing the Suns behind 21 points from Wilson Chandler and 20 from Andre Iguodala.

They will face sixth-seeded Golden State in the first round, opening at home—where they've won a franchise-best 23 straight games to finish with the league's best home mark at 38-3, eclipsing the old record of 36-5 set in 1976-77, their first year in the NBA.

They also won an NBA franchise record 57 games overall, besting the 54-win seasons of 1987-88 and 2008-09.

Luis Scola's 17 points and 11 rebounds led the Suns, who wrapped up the second-worst season in franchise history with a mark of 25-57, the worst in the West. The only one that was worse for the Suns was their inaugural NBA season in 1968-69, when they went 16-66.

Clippers 112, Kings 108

In Sacramento, Calif., Jamal Crawford scored 24 points, including several big shots down the stretch, and the Clippers locked up the No. 4 seed in the West and home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

Chris Paul had 25 points and 11 assists for the Pacific Division champion Clippers (56-26), who will open against fifth-seeded Memphis (56-26) in Los Angeles. The Clippers won three of four games against the Grizzlies this season.

DeMarcus Cousins had a season-high 36 points and a career-best 22 rebounds, and Marcus Thornton scored 21 to rally Sacramento from an 11-point deficit in the fourth quarter before the Clippers took control.

Indians drop third straight, 5-3 to Red Sox

CLEVELAND (AP)—Converted closer Alfredo Aceves coasted through five innings, Mike Napoli and Daniel Nava drove in two runs apiece and the Red Sox, bonded by the tragedy in Boston, struck quickly against Justin Masterson and beat the Cleveland Indians 6-3 on Wednesday night for their fifth straight win.

Aceves (1-0), who began the season in Boston's bullpen, took a shutout into the sixth before giving up three runs. Andrew Bailey, filling for injured closer Joel Hanrahan, worked the ninth for his first save.

Napoli had an RBI single in the first when the Red Sox scored three off Masterson (3-1), who has already beaten two Cy Young Award winners this season and came in without allowing a run in 19 straight innings.

Nick Swisher and Jason Giambi homered for the Indians, who dropped their third in a row.

The Red Sox hung a gray "617 Boston Strong" jersey in their dugout, just as they did for Tuesday's emotional series opener—one day after the deadly marathon bombings back home. The jersey has become a symbol of unity for the club, which will be back at Fenway Park on Friday to open a 10-game homestand.

Shane Victorino, Jacoby Ellsbury and Mike Carp had three hits apiece as the Red Sox built Aceves a 5-0 lead.

Tigers 2, Mariners 1, 14 innings

In Seattle, Detroit catcher Brayan Pena held onto Prince Fielder's relay throw and absorbed a collision with Justin Smoak at home plate for the final out, and the Tigers outlasted the Seattle Mariners in 14 innings.

Smoak singled with one out off Joaquin Benoit, and with two outs Dustin Ackley doubled into the right-field corner. Third base coach Jeff Datz didn't hesitate in waiving Smoak around with the potential tying run.

Torii Hunter started the relay from the outfield, and Fielder's throw was up the third base line a bit. Pena, however, caught it in plenty of time and held onto the ball as Smoak crashed into him.

Rays 6, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Kelly Johnson and Shelley Duncan homered, James Loney had three RBIs and Tampa Bay beat Baltimore to snap a four-game skid.

Matt Moore (3-0) gave up two runs and five hits in 6 2-3 innings. Although his streak of scoreless starts ended at two, the left-hander has accounted for three of the Rays' five wins this season.

The six runs were the most the Rays scored in a game since a 6-0 win over Cleveland on April 6. Following that victory, Tampa Bay lost seven of eight before turning it around against the Orioles.

Athletics 7, Astros 5

In Oakland, Calif., Bartolo Colon pitched six crisp innings, Josh Reddick doubled in two runs during a six-run first and Oakland defeated Houston to complete another three-game sweep.

The Athletics swept a three-game series at Houston during the first week of the season.

Seth Smith had three hits for the A's, who improved to an AL-best 12-4. They sent 11 batters to the plate and chased Bud Norris (2-2) in the first inning, then won behind Colon (2-0) and three relievers.

White Sox 7, Blue Jays 0

In Toronto, Tyler Flowers hit a three-run homer and Jose Quintana pitched 6 2-3 sharp innings to lead Chicago over Toronto.

Alex Rios also homered against his former team to back Quintana (1-0), who held the Blue Jays to five hits with two walks while striking out seven in his third start of the season.

J.A. Happ (2-1) allowed six hits, including two homers, and five runs in 5 2-3 innings to end a string of four consecutive quality starts by the Blue Jays. Jose Bautista missed his third straight game with a sore back.

Yankees 4, Diamondbacks 3

In New York, pinch-hitter Travis Hafner connected for a tie-breaking homer with two outs in the eighth inning to lead CC Sabathia and the Yankees past Arizona.

Brett Gardner had a tying, two-run single in the seventh for New York. Stymied by Wade Miley for six innings, the Yankees broke through and won for the seventh time in eight games.

Sabathia (3-1) gave up a two-run homer to Paul Goldschmidt in the first, then settled down for his third straight win after struggling on opening day. It was his second consecutive outing of eight innings.

Mariano Rivera pitched the ninth for his fourth save. Injured for most of last season, Rivera posted his first back-to-back saves since April 10-11, 2012.

Pirates 5, Cardinals 0

In Pittsburgh, A.J. Burnett took a no-hitter into the seventh inning nearly 12 years after throwing the only one of his career, pitching the Pittsburgh Pirates to a victory over the St. Louis Cardinals.

Burnett (1-2) lost his bid with two outs in the seventh on Carlos Beltran's double to right-center. That was the lone hit given up by the 36-year-old right-hander in seven dominant innings.

Padres 7, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw gave up his first three home runs of the season in a span of three innings and the San Diego Padres beat the Los Angeles Dodgers to finish a three-game sweep.

Everth Cabrera, Chris Denorfia and Kyle Blanks all connected off Kershaw (2-2), who entered with a 1.16 ERA in three starts. But the 2011 NL Cy Young Award winner left this one trailing 5-1 after throwing 109 pitches in 5 1-3 innings.

Nationals 6, Marlins 1

In Miamim Ross Detwiler departed with a lead for the third start in a row and this time the bullpen held on as Bryce Harper and the Washington Nationals beat the Miami Marlins.

Harper, back in the Nationals' lineup after missing one game with the flu, hiked his average to .364 with four hits and improved to 9 for 20 against Ricky Nolasco (0-2). Harper hit two solo homers off Nolasco on opening day.

Brewers 4, Giants 3

In Milwaukee, pinch-hitter Blake Lalli lifted a long single in the bottom of the ninth inning that sent the Milwaukee Brewers over the San Francisco Giants.

With the score tied, one out and the outfielders playing in, Lalli stepped to the plate for just the sixth time this season.

Lalli lofted a deep fly ball well over the head of left fielder Gregor Blanco for his first hit of 2013. Milwaukee extended its longest winning streak this year to three.

Reds 1, Phillies 0
Reds 11, Phillies 2

In Cincinnati, Jay Bruce hit a pair of bases-loaded singles that sent the Cincinnati Reds to a couple of wins over Philadelphia.

First, the Reds finished their game suspended overnight by rain. Several hundred fans were in the stands to see Phillippe Aumont (1-2) pick the game up in the bottom of the ninth and give up Bruce's bases-loaded single only four batters later.

Aroldis Chapman (2-0) got the win without even warming up on Wednesday—he'd retired the last three batters before the rain came the previous night.

Then, the Reds completed their first series sweep of the Phillies since 1996.

Bruce hit a bases-loaded single that highlighted a five-run rally in the second inning off left-hander John Lannan (0-1).

Reds starter Mike Leake (1-2) drove in a run with his first career triple during the big inning.

Royals 1, Braves 0

In Atlanta, Wade Davis pitched seven sharp innings, Jeff Francoeur had an RBI single and the Kansas City Royals stopped Atlanta's 10-game winning streak.

The Braves were seeking their first 13-1 start since 1994. But the Atlanta hitters—who homered five times off the Royals on Tuesday—were shut down.

Davis (2-0) gave up five hits, didn't walk anyone and struck out seven. Greg Holland worked a scoreless ninth for his third save.

Tight matches in M-League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Korean Football Association on Saipan led three teams in posting close victories in last week's games in the M-League at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

KFAS eked out a 2-1 win over Paire FC to improve to a 2-1-2 win-draw-loss record. Paire fell to a 1-0-4 slate.

Jin Koo Cho scored the winning goal, two minutes before the game ended. Sang Ho Choi nailed the other goal for KFAS, lighting up the scoreboard in the third minute, while Zhi Peng Lin made the equalizer six minutes later.

Inter Godfather's 1, Tan Holdings FC

Inter Godfather's also drained an early goal to slip past Tan Holdings FC.

Inter Godfather's made it to the scoreboard in the sixth minute, courtesy of Dale Roberts. With the victory, Inter Godfather's grabbed the solo lead from Wild Bill's, as the former moved up to a 4-0-1 card. Tan Holdings dropped to fifth place with its 1-1-3 record.

MP United 3, Wild Bill's 2

MP United pushed Wild Bill's down to second spot in Division 1 after pulling off a 3-2 victory last Wednesday.

Joe Miller scored back-to-back goals in the first half for MP United, while Zheng Zu logged the winning goal in the second half. Wild Bill's, which fell to a 3-0-2 slate, drew one goal apiece form Tanapon Unsa and Jack Thoensaket, who both scored in the first 45 minutes of play.

DIVISION 2
Sun Palace 1, Kanoa 0

In the lone Division 2 game, Sun Palace edged Kanoa FC.

Panapa Peteru made the lone goal in the match, scoring in the 30th minute. Peteru's goal gave Sun Palace its third win in four games and put the team in the top spot, tying Kanoa (3-0-1).

MP UNITED

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Tan Holdings, 3-1. Jehn Joyner failed to score in that win, but came out strong in MP United's last game, hitting two goals against Paire. He put MP United in the board with his first goal in the 13th minute, while Tanapon Unsa made it a 2-0 advantage eight minutes later.

Paire, which handed MP United its lone loss in the season, winning their Feb. 23 match at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, 3-2, seemed headed for its second straight defeat at the hands of the eventual champion, as it could not find its form in the first 45 minutes of play.

The first goal remained elusive for Paire in the second half, while Joyner got his second in the 70th minute to lift MP United to the easy win.

Joining Joyner and Unsa on the champion team are Greg Kim, Wonseok Sung, Bob Kim, John Taisacan, Kennedy Izuka, Christopher Camacho, Jeongwan Kim, Enrico Del Rosario, Darren Hocog, Evert Van Der Maas, Greg Sablan, Joon Lee, Frank Jeon, Jake Lee, Chris Park, Jireh Yobech, Brian Lee, Scott Kim, and Sung Bae Park.

BOYS U15
Matansa 2, Shirley's 0

In the first game in the boys U15 last Friday at the Oleai pitch, Matansa shut out Shirley's FC.

Terrence Belcher canned the winning goals for Matansa, scoring in the 21st and 62nd minute, to improve his team's record to 3-1-3 for third place in the five-team field. Shirley's is at the bottom of the team standings, as it was winless in eight games in the two-round robin competition.

Paire 2, Tan Holdings 1

In the other game last Friday, Paire FC edged Tan Holdings.

Paire retained the No. 2 spot with its 6-0-1 card, while Tan Holdings also stayed in fourth place with its 2-0-5 slate. Both teams have one more game left in the regular season and will complete their campaign tonight with Paire taking on MP United at 5:30pm and Tan Holdings meeting Matansa at 7:30pm.

Ivan Seo led Paire's sixth victory, making two goals in the first half. Tan Holdings avoided a shutout after Emmanuel Aniana found the back of the net in the final frame.

GIRLS U15
Matansa 4, Shirley's 1

Matansa boosted its title chances in the girls U14 after defeating Shirley's (3-1-4) last Saturday at the Hopwood pitch.

Matansa now has a 6-0-1 slate, going into its last game tomorrow against MP United (2-1-4) at Hopwood. A win over MP United will secure the championship for Matansa, but a loss will open the door for Tan Holdings, which owns a 5-0-2 card and could force a tie for first place with a victory over Paire (0-2-5) tomorrow.

Angelica Sally collected two goals in Matansa's triumph over Shirley's, while Joy Kimiko Tenorio and Bernadette Horey chipped in one apiece. Diana Maniacop scored the lone goal for Shirley's.

Tan Holdings 5, Paire 1

Tan Holdings remained in contention for the division championship after whipping Paire in the other game at Hopwood last Saturday.

Chloe Salvosa fired twin goals, while Krizel Mae Tuazon, Jennifer Perena, and Mary Kay Alferos contributed one each for Tan Holdings. Paire got its only goal from Guineverre Borja, who scored in the sixth minute for their temporary lead before Tuazon made the equalizer and Tan Holdings went on to dominate the remaining minutes of the match.

WAWAWINDZ

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its next offensive set, however Tabora's pass to Junar Guiab in the backcourt was intercepted by Badong Camacho. With the error, Marianas Water was forced to commit duty fouls in the closing seconds and Pantaleon and Talania cashed in, as they both went 2-for-2 from the stripe.

It was a come-from-behind win for Wawawindz, which fell behind by 11 midway in the fourth quarter, 69-80, before hitting a string from downtown to recover. Wawawindz canned four triples in the final half of the fourth canto with Talania making two and Itaas and Melvin Capalad adding one apiece.

Talania top-scored for Wawawindz with his 37 points, while four of his teammates also scored in double figures. Tabora paced Marianas Water with his 29 markers, but was held to 2 points in the fourth canto.

Hi-Five 90, Team Susupe 80

In the first game last Wednesday, High-Five posted a double-digit win over Team Susupe.

Tim Wesley led Hi-Five with his 21 points, scoring 7 of them in the fourth quarter to thwart Team Susupe's repeated comeback bids. Six other Hi-Five players lit up the scoreboard in the fourth canto, while Susupe leaned heavily on Jawn Joyner and Dave Sablan.

Susupe played catch up in the second half, after Hi-Five outscored the team in the second canto, 26-15, turning a slim 16-15 advantage to a 42-30 halftime lead. Pando Muleta and Elmer Esdrelon teamed up in the second-quarter breakaway, combining for 12 points, while Wesley chipped in 4.

Joyner and Sablan found an ally in Dennis Vinas in the third, as the latter knocked in 8 points to add to the 16 of his two other teammates, and Susupe moved to within 5, 59-64, after outgunning Hi-Five, 29-22. However, Susupe's balance scoring faded away in the fourth canto, allowing Wesley and company to preserve the lead and the win.

First Game

Hi-Five 90 – Wesley 21, McCain 11, Muleta 9, Park 8, Esdrelon 8, Matagolai 8, Acosta 8, Aaron 7, Rasa 2.

Team Susupe 80 – Vinas 22, Joyner 17, Sablan 16, Bernardo 16, Tabamo 4, Sedillo 2, Umali 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-15, 42-30, 64-59, 90-80.

Second Game

Wawawindz 108 – Talania 37, Paraiso 16, Pantaleon 12, Itaas 12, Montes 10, Camacho 9, Galulu 6, Capalad 5, Olivos 1.

Marianas Water 104 – Tabora 29, Guiab 17, Fitial 13, Bisana 12, Lizama 11, Saplan 3, Teregeyo 3, Pacheco 2, Banatasa 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-26, 42-40, 62-70, 91-91, 108-104.

Golf fundraiser tomorrow at MCC

The Refaluwasch Golfers Association is spearheading a fundraising tournament for member and police officer Diwain Stephens tomorrow at the Marianas Country Club.

Entry fee is only $75 and the tournament is open to all golfers with proceeds from the weekend to be used to assist Stephens in his medical treatment in Hawaii.

The competition has a double-peoria format with the first place finisher getting $300. The runner-up and third placers will receive $200 and $100, respectively. Closest to the pin contests on par-3 holes will also take place at $50 bet per hole.

The fundraiser will also double as RGA's April Ace of the Month tournament. The score to beat is net 62, which Manny Mangarero record on April 7 during the qualifier at MCC. Mangarero fired a 36 and 37 on the front and back nines during the April qualifier and nailed six birdies, four of them came from the last nine holes.

The awards ceremony and banquet for the weekend event will also take place at MCC. Check-in time is at 11am, while a shotgun start is set for 12nn.

For more information, contact Tom Tebuteb at 483-2589 or Ray Tigilao at 789-8861. ***(PR)***

YOUTH PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Name: **Taka Morimoto Borja**
Age Group: **U10**
Team: **Shirley's FC**
Position: **Striker**
Years of Playing Experience: **2 years**
Village: **Garapan**
School: **Garapan Elementary School**
Grade: **3rd**

Q: How did you become interested in football?

A: Soccer happens to be sport that I like. It is a sport that I look forward to go to every practice and on weekend games.

Q: Why do you like to play football?

A: I like soccer because it is fun. But we can also get hurt while playing but I am not worried.

Q: What are your greatest football achievements/moments?

A: When I am able to score for the team and have a chance to play some trick shots during the game.

Q: What other message can you share with the football community?

A: Do everything you can to improve and win games.

*"Taka is very active and aggressive during games. He is a fast runner and has the ability to switch from defense to offense so quickly. He shows good sportsmanship, is cooperative, and always attends our practice."***—Taka's coach Joe Rasa**

Name: **Jodie Rose Lazaro**
Age Group: **U12**
Team: **Shirley's FC**
Position: **Defender**
Years of Playing Experience: **1 year**
Village: **Susupe**
School: **William S. Reyes Elementary School**
Grade: **4th**

Q: How did you become interested in football?

A: I became interested in football when my mom brought me to the team she is coaching. My mom plays in the women's league and my coach plays in the men's league, so I said I will continue playing to become a good player like them.

Q: Why do you like to play football?

A: I like to play football because it's fun to run and play. The rules are simple and are easy to understand and I get to play with my friends and classmates.

Q: What are your greatest football achievements/moments?

A: So far it's when I was able to play in a real soccer game and was able to hit and kick the ball a lot of times.

Q: What other message can you share with the football community?

A: Just try hard and you'll be able to achieve and get what you want.

*"Jodie is new to the team and I remember the first time I asked her to join Shirley's Football Club she didn't hesitate to say yes. She is always attentive and listens to instructions during practices and games. She never complains even when the games are played under the hot weather. She never quits and always stays on the field. The team is lucky to have her this season."***—Jodie's coach Fradel Sedillo.**

GOOD

From Page 36

at the plate, as it scored only one run in next four innings, while the Braves added two more runs. Spencer Dickinson scored the lone run for McDonald's in the second inning off Austin Sanchez's double. The Braves' two runs were made off another RBI single from Cabrera, who drove in Blade Igitol, and a fielder's choice that brought home Tony Dizon.

Trailing 1-9, McDonald's kept its hopes alive in the sixth inning, cutting the Braves' lead to three before Cabrera ended the rally with the third strike. Jaydon Tenorio doubled and scored Juan Guerrero for McDonald's second run, while the four other runs came off errors.

However, after McDonald's sixth run, Braves relief pitcher Austin Benavente struck out Johnny Santos, while Henry Fleming flied out with shortstop Dizon catching the ball, pushing McDonald's one step closer to losing the match. Benavente went on to score another strike, knocking out Guerrero on his second at-bat.

Cabrera led the close win with his 2-for-3 performance at the plate. He also scored one run, two singles, and two RBIs and pitched in five innings, striking out 10 and allowing only two hits and three earned runs. Diaz and Bradley Camacho added one RBI apiece.

Rangamar leads batting, pitching races

The JPO Enforcers' Shakobe Rangamar is lording it over in the Major Division's statistical race.

He is ahead in the batting contest, going 20-for-27 at bat for an average of. 741. He also has earned 15 RBIs, six doubles, and two home runs. Joining Rangamar in the Top 15 of the batting race, which was based on 23 or more times at bat, are Pinnacle Rockies' Donavin Ada (26-for-36/.722); Jets' Napu Pua (16-for-23/.696); Twins' Bradley Pangelinan (14-for-23/.609), Red Sox's Greg Sablan (14-for-24/.583), McDonald's Jaydon Tenorio (13-for-23/.565); Ol'Aces Kimo Angailen (20-for-36/.556); Falcons' Max Pangelinan (16-for-29/.552); IT&E's Philip Kapileo (14-for-26/.538); Red Sox's Luis Blas (15-for-28/.536); Laolao's Dwayne Reyes (16-for-30/.533); Ol'Aces Jordan Kosam (16-for-30/.533); Red Sox's Tindin Deleon Guerero (170for-32/.531); Comets I's Elijah Villar (19-for-36/528); and McDonald's Spencer Dickinson (16-for-31/.516).

In pitching, Rangamar also leads with an ERA of 2.25. He pitched in 25 innings, gave up 16 runs and 25 hits, and had 55 strikeouts and 18 base on balls. Pete Maratita has recorded the most strikeouts with 71 and is at second place with a 2.31 ERA.

Bill Sakovich Clinic for Tsunami Saipan

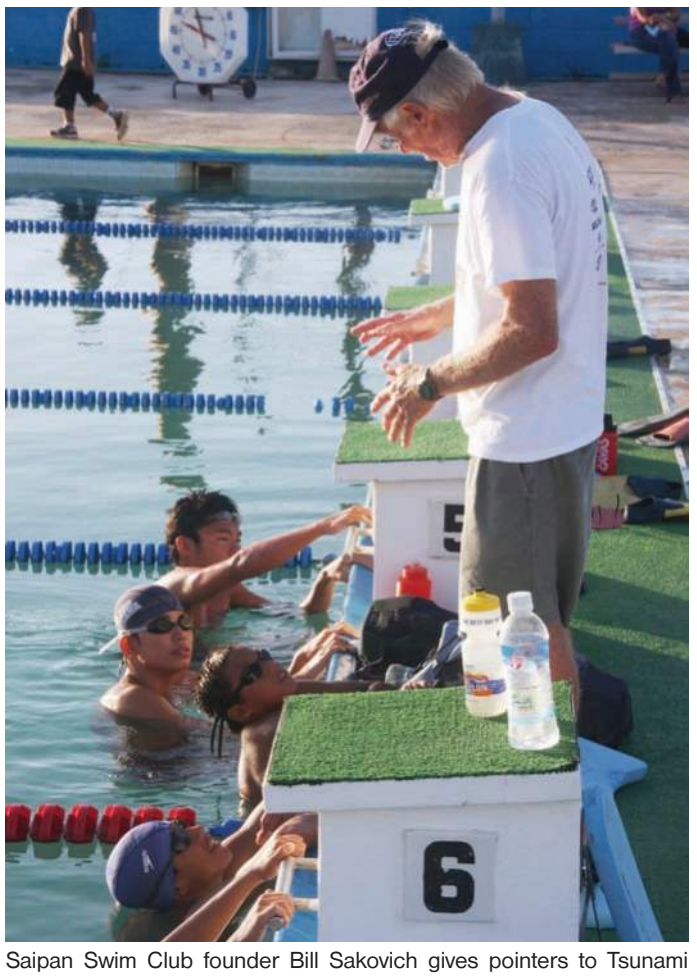
CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Saipan Swim Club founder Bill Sakovich, third left from back row, poses with senior members of Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan during a clinic he held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last month.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers join Saipan Swim Club founder Bill Sakovich for a group photo.

Saipan Swim Club founder Bill Sakovich gestures to Tsunami Saipan swimmers.

Saipan Swim Club founder Bill Sakovich talks to Tsunami Saipan swimmers.



Saipan Swim Club founder Bill Sakovich gives pointers to Tsunami Saipan swimmers.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers listen to Saipan Swim Club founder Bill Sakovich's message.

Saipan Swim Club founder Bill Sakovich points out the proper position at the starting block for the backstroke swim.

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Lakers hold off Rockets, take West's 7th seed

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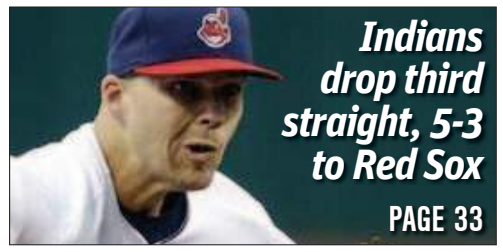
Sports



Indians drop third straight, 5-3 to Red Sox

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MP United reclaims U18 crown

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United FC players huddle at the pitch before playing rival Paire FC in the boys U18 division of the 2013 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club capped its championship win in the boys U18 division of the 2013 NMIFA Spring Youth League with a 3-0 win over rival Paire Football Club last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

MP United finished the three-round spring season with a 5-0-1 win-draw-loss record to regain the boys U18 title it lost to Paire last fall. Tan Holdings FC completed the field and earned a 1-1-4 slate to place behind Paire, which had a 2-1-3 card.

The Norman Del Rosario-mentored MP United had the championship in the bag as early as April 6 when it downed

See MP UNITED on Page 34

Wawawindz nips Marianas Water in OT

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Wawawindz needed extra minutes to win its debut in the 30A division of the 2013 Masters Basketball League against Marianas Water, 108-104, last Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Leo Itaas canned a triple that sent the game into overtime, while Jun Pantaleon and Brandon Talania were flawless in their last trips to the foul line in the extension period to lift Wawawindz to the 4-point win.

Itaas was pressed to pull up for a triple after Syl Teregeyo split his charities and gave Marianas Water a 91-88 lead, 6.5 seconds left in regulation. Wawawindz sued for time and when the game resumed, Itaas made an inbound pass to Jun Pantaleon, who quickly returned the leather to the former for the crucial trey from the right key. Itaas' attempt and conversion caught Marianas Water off guard as its defense was not set up yet and it was expecting either Talania or Pantaleon to pull up for the long shot.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas Water's Syl Teregeyo rams into Wawawindz's Rolly Paraiso during a rebound play in the fourth quarter of their game in the 30A division of the Masters caging last Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

After the triple, Wawawindz regained possession when Marianas Water made an error from the inbound play, however the former failed to make another big shot in the end with 1.5 seconds left in the fourth period and the match went into overtime.

In the extra period, the game went back and forth until Marianas Water committed costly errors near midcourt, allowing two easy layups for Wawawindz with the other shot turned into an and-1 play by Itaas.

Now down by 5, 102-97, with less than a minute left in overtime, Marianas Water got three free throws from Sam Fernandez in the ensuing plays to stay in contention and moved within 2 after Fernandez scored 2 more points and Jun Tabora also had a field goal to answer Arthur Montes' bank shot. Marianas Water then had a chance to tie the game when Wawawindz faltered on

See WAWAWINDZ on Page 34

Good start lifts Braves to ninth win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The NSA Braves bagged their ninth win in the Major division of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball after beating McDonald's, 9-6, last Tuesday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

A seven-run bottom of the first inning gave the Braves enough cushion and they went on to halt McDonald's rally at the top of the sixth inning to pull off the close victory. The Braves scored four runs off McDonald's errors, two were courtesy of fielder's choice, and one from an RBI single of pitcher Noel Cabrera.

McDonald's, which failed to score at the top of the first, continued to struggle

See GOOD on Page 34

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The JPO Enforcers' Shakobe Rangamar, seen here taking a cut during an earlier game in the Major division of the SLLB at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Field, leads in the pitching and batting races.